



# **Welcome to the Banner**

**January 24, 2020**

**Bringing you information today on **200** years of statehood and beyond. Highlighting news and events celebrating Alabama.**

**Alabama's future is in our hands**

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## Up & coming Events Exhibitions

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Help us @ [ALABAMA200.org](https://ALABAMA200.org)

Alabama has been a state for 200 years, and its people are stepping up to commemorate its bicentennial. We're here to keep you up to date on events and programs throughout the state and help you tune in to the state's diverse cultural and historic heritage.

To stay on top of everything that's going on, check out our community calendar at [ALABAMA200.org](https://ALABAMA200.org) and to get the full scoop, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Your participation helps us reach as many people as possible and is an easy and effective way to show pride for our state, from Bay Minette to Tuscaloosa, Huntsville to Old Cahawba.

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# Bicentennial Stories from Around the State





Alabama State Senator Arthur Orr

## **Alabama's future is in our hands**

From the article by Alabama State Senator Arthur Orr on *ThisisAlabama.org*:

The story is told of Abraham Lincoln occasionally walking through the streets of Washington at night during the Civil War. One Wednesday evening he, along with an aide, stepped into an ongoing church service. President Lincoln later told the aide he didn't care for the sermon because it did not challenge him or any of the parishioners to strive toward any greater achievement or personal improvement.

Alabama just celebrated its bicentennial as a state. As I recently stated in remarks at a ceremony marking the occasion, our history is marked by much that is good, but also scarred entirely too much by that which is not.

Although history shaped who we are today, it does not control our future. As we begin Alabama's third century our future is in our hands. In the spirit of President Lincoln, I challenge each reader of these few lines.

Your state, whether by birth or residence, needs your engaged commitment to make our state a better place and leave it better than we found it. Whether through public service, volunteering, starting a company or a myriad of other avenues, we need you.

For the complete article please see:

<https://www.thisisalabama.org/2020/01/13/alabamas-future-is-in-our-hands/>



## **Alabama's Bicentennial year: One to remember**

From the article by Paul DeMarco on *Trussvilletribune.com*:

As we start a new year, we can now look back at the stories that made the news in 2019.

In January, Governor Kay Ivey was sworn into office after being elected for a full term outright after serving a stint leading the state after the resignation of Robert Bentley. The Alabama House of Representatives and Senate then convened with a record number of freshmen for a new session.

The governor did not waste any time getting to business with the proposal of a controversial ten cents per gallon gasoline tax, The bill passed with large majorities in both chambers of the legislature despite strong public opposition. Bills that would have weakened the state's ethics law, legalize marijuana and create a state lottery all failed. A bill that would completely ban abortion in the state and for which proponents hope will lead to overturning Roe versus Wade passed.

Meanwhile, Alabama passed one of its largest education budgets ever this past year, unfortunately, what made the news were results that showed Alabama scoring last in the Nation in math scores.

In the spring, the United States Justice Department issued a report alleging serious problems with violence and overcrowding in the state corrections system that would require immediate attention from the state. The governor proposed the construction of three new prisons and the legislature budgeted millions of dollars to hire more guards in

response.

For the complete article please see:

<https://www.trussvilletribune.com/2020/01/05/alabamas-bicentennial-year-one-to-remember-by-paul-demarco/>



Freedom Riders Museum (Photos: Renée S. Gordon)

## Smooth Traveler: Montgomery, Alabama (Part 1 and 2)

From the article by Renée S. Gordon on *Philasun.com*:

### **Part 1:**

Montgomery, Alabama is widely recognized as both the “Cradle of the Confederacy” and the “Birthplace of Civil Rights.” You may wonder how one small city can embody both of these huge movements, but it somehow manages to balance this history by taking an unflinching look at the events holistically.

The history of our country’s race relations requires continued examination and, once again, Montgomery finds itself the site of four institutions dedicated to teaching, documenting and presenting issues of race that might otherwise go untold.

([@MGMCapitalCool](#))

The Civil War ended in April 1865. The Klan was formed in December of that year as a way of regaining and maintaining control over Black people — their initial targets —

through terror.

The Klan grew increasingly violent and emboldened, even organizing a meeting in 1867 to plan a unified response to the government's Reconstruction program. The Klan, the first of the White supremacist organizations, expanded their hatred to include Catholics, Jews, immigrants, and LGBTQ individuals.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a civil rights law firm, was established in 1971 by Morris Dees, Joseph J. Levin Jr., and Julian Bond. The nonprofit organization is best known for its litigation against supremacists, free "Teaching Tolerance" educational materials, and Hatewatch, the activity monitoring of right-wing radicals and other hate groups.

The Civil Rights Memorial Center invites visitors to learn about the ongoing history, challenges and martyrs of the Movement through interpretive panels and interactive displays. A 20-by-40-foot digital Wall of Tolerance features cascading names of those pledged to fight against injustice. Visitors are invited to sign the wall as well.

([www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org))

The SPLC Civil Rights Memorial was designed by Maya Lin in 1988 to honor 40 martyrs in the cause of human rights in the modern Civil Rights era, 1954- 1968. Their names are etched clockwise on the black granite Martyr's Table.

The table is 31-inches high so that children may touch the names and feel the water that flows from its center. A wall behind it is etched with the words, "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream".

## **Part 2:**

Montgomery, Alabama has, from its beginning, acted as a historical vortex, drawing people and events into its orbit in astonishing configurations. This is the city of the Creek Indians, M.L.K., Rosa Parks, Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., and Jefferson Davis, of the White House of the Confederacy and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

It nurtured both the Confederacy and the Civil Rights Movement. It is nearly impossible to fully understand the birth of the Movement without visiting Montgomery and following the US Civil Rights Trail. (<https://civilrightstrail.com>)

Alabama was settled by Europeans in 1720. Slavery was introduced simultaneously. The majority of the enslaved people were brought from other states. In 1819, when Alabama became a state, slaves accounted for 30% of the population.

Alabama seceded in 1861, and at that time, slaves were 45% of the population, there were 2,690 freedmen, and they produced 23% of the country's cotton. (#myMGM)

In 1716, Scotsman James McQueen settled in Montgomery to trade. A year later, the French established Fort Toulouse as a trading post. By 1860, 51% of Montgomery's

population was enslaved.

Throughout the city historical markers have been placed to interpret the story and allow visitors to envision the events and spatial relationships.

The Montgomery Slave Markets and First Emancipation Observance markers indicate that the main slave market, one of the state's largest, was at the Artesian Basin, now Court Square.

In the 1850s, there were four slave depots. Markers also indicate the port of entry and departure and the train depot used for transport of the enslaved.

For the complete article please see:

Part 1:

<https://www.philasun.com/travel/smooth-traveler-montgomery-alabama-part-one/>

and

Part 2:

<https://www.philasun.com/travel/smooth-traveler-montgomery-alabama-part-two/>



Rosa Parks, with her hat and glasses, holding her purse.

## **Creating downtown Montgomery's Rosa Parks sculpture**

From the article by Shannon Heupel on *Montgomeryadvertiser.com*:

Two sisters stand in Montgomery, creations of love and patience made in the image of a civil rights icon.

One is a strong and resilient bronze observer, clutching her purse in both hands, forever waiting at a street corner.

Another, the firstborn, is a feat of clay. She's made of investigation, discussion and many, many months of labor. Most people will never see her in person.

On May 16 last year, Montgomery artist Clydetta Fulmer was commissioned to create a life-size bronze statue of Rosa Parks, whose arrest on Dec. 1, 1955, sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In honor of Parks and Alabama's 200th birthday celebration, the statue was unveiled on Dec. 1, 2019.

"I thought it was an honor and an opportunity," said Fulmer, who has several other commissioned sculptures in Montgomery. She sculpted the bronze statue of Gen. Richard Montgomery that was unveiled last year and also has statues of Helen Keller as a child, Saint Margaret Queen of Scotland, Gene and Mark Stallings, and more. Several of her pieces are at Faulkner University.

"Clydetta is a fantastic artist. She has worked all over the country. She's a very humble woman, but she has done a lot of important work over her career," said Ashley Ledbetter, who was the project manager for the Rosa Parks statue. Ledbetter also serves as executive director of the Montgomery Area Business Committee for the Arts and chairman for Montgomery's Public Art Commission.

The real Parks was 5 feet, 3 inches in height. Her 300-pound bronze statue is the same, though it gets a little boost from 2-inch heels and a hat.

Standing there on the sidewalk at the end of Dexter Avenue, with her back to the Capitol and an unwavering gaze and smile toward Court Square Fountain, she looks like any other person from a distance. There's no raised platform.

"When I worked on the statue in my studio, it was always on a platform that was about 10 inches tall. At the foundry, it was also on a platform," Fulmer said. "When we set her in place here on the sidewalk, we said she looks so small."

In 1955, Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery city bus. Under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., black residents refused to ride city buses after Parks' arrest. After 381 days of boycott, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

Fulmer remembers a comment on the day the bronze Parks was unveiled that it was "amazing and humbling that such a small lady would make such a tremendous difference."

For the complete article please see:

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2020/01/21/creating-downtown-montgomerys-rosa-parks-sculpture-ideas-clay-bronze/4477737002/>



## **Bicentennial Bash: Pike County completes celebration of 200 years in 2019**

From the article by Jaine Treadwell on *Troymessenger.com*:

Pike County joined in the statewide three-year Alabama Bicentennial celebration, 2017-2019, and also took advantage of the opportunity to celebrate its own people, places, and stories.

Alabama became a state on December 14, 1819, and Pike County was founded in 1821, four years after Alabama become a territory and two years after it had been created a state.

The cities of Troy and Brundidge planned Alabama Bicentennial celebrations that would focus on their cities and surrounding areas.

The City of Troy formed Reunion Troy, a special committee to research and spearhead programs and celebrations throughout the Alabama200 celebration which was led statewide by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

Nicklaus Chrysson, Reunion Troy social media coordinator and historian, said the City of Troy kicked off the three-year celebration in 2017, with a community band concert featuring The Park Band on the square in downtown Troy.

“Reunion Troy’s next Alabama Bicentennial event was a Heritage Walk in downtown Troy,” Chrysson said. “Markers with pictures and information were placed around the

downtown area that designed historic sites. The Heritage Walk was a self-guided tour and provided residents and visitors with information about Troy’s historic downtown.”

In February 2018, Reunion Troy hosted John Lewis Day to honor Georgia Congressman Lewis who is a Pike County native.

Troy Mayor Jason Reeves proclaimed Saturday, February 3, 2018, John Lewis Day in Troy. Reeves presented and unveiled a portrait of Lewis by noted artist Ronald McDowell.

Reeves and Lee Sentell, director of the Alabama Tourism Department, unveiled a historic marker detailing Lewis’ legacy. The marker is placed permanently at the Troy Public Library.

Also in 2018, Reunion Troy planned a weekend honoring the military service of Troy and Pike County veterans beginning with World War II and through Afghanistan.

The weekend began with a Veterans Day Breakfast hosted by the Colley Senior Complex and continued with the showing of a video, “Sharing Our Stories” by Trojan Nelsey Leverette featuring veterans from different wars and branches of service. Author John D. Morrison also shared the story of the 933rd Field Artillery Battalion in WWII that included soldiers from Pike County.

In the afternoon, the Pioneer Museum of Alabama invited veterans and their families to visit their military exhibits.

In 2019, the Reunion Troy committee dedicates Troy’s Bicentennial mural, titled “The City of Troy: Our People, Our Places, Our Stories” with a large gathering present. The mural project was led by Troy artist Alex McLendon. Troy’s Alabama200 mural features a series of activities and events that celebrated the people, places, and stories of Troy. The mural includes educators, historians, students, local business and community leaders of various generations. The mural is a compilation of the past, present and perhaps, even future leaders, that have significantly impacted the City of Troy at various points in history.

For the complete article please see:

<https://www.troymessenger.com/2020/01/04/bicentennial-bash-pike-county-completes-celebration-of-200-years-in-2019/>





## Lauderdale sheriff's office celebrates 200th

From the article by Bernie Delinski on *Timesdaily.com*:

Two hundred years ago this month, a young man named Charles Roundtree became the first to receive a title that only 42 men have ever held.

"Alabama became a state in 1819 and Charles Roundtree was appointed sheriff of Lauderdale County on Jan. 24, 1820," current Sheriff Rick Singleton said. "He was in his 20s when he was appointed and was the ranger for the Lauderdale County territory before Alabama became a state."

This year, the sheriff's office is commemorating 200 years as a unit and planning an anniversary celebration of the first swearing-in, Singleton said.

"On Jan. 24th, we're dedicating a memorial that's been erected at Memorial Grove at 11 a.m.," he said.

The grove is on the hill where Florence Boulevard turns into Tennessee Street.

"We'll have a ceremony and unveiling of the monument, followed by a memorial service honoring the three deputies who have been killed in the line of duty," Singleton said.

An open house at the sheriff's office on the second floor of the Lauderdale County Courthouse will follow from 2-4 p.m.

"We invite all of our citizens who can drop by," Singleton said.

Already, the public may have noticed something that is being done as a nod to the anniversary.

"We're doing a lot of special things this month especially in the sheriff's office," Singleton said. "We've approved a special uniform for the deputies. You'll see them wearing jeans and boots and have a special hat for them to wear, as part of a throwback to that particular era."

The sheriff said his office has prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the department if any groups are interested in having them present it. Anyone interested can call the department at 256-760-5757.

For the complete article please see:

[https://www.timesdaily.com/news/local/lauderdale-sheriff-s-office-celebrates-th/article\\_a300e1f5-6fdd-568b-8e3a-35e70b016278.html](https://www.timesdaily.com/news/local/lauderdale-sheriff-s-office-celebrates-th/article_a300e1f5-6fdd-568b-8e3a-35e70b016278.html)



## Rock the Birmingham Boat Show in Can't Miss Alabama

From the article by Shirley Jackson on *Alabamane.wscenter.com*:

### **Birmingham Boat Show Jan. 23-26**

Featuring an all-star lineup of top-shelf marine dealers from throughout the state, the [Birmingham Boat Show](#) Jan. 23-26 will have more than 600 boats on display with the latest in motors, fishing gear, guides, outfitters and related outdoor gear. There will be daily giveaways and a grand prize drawing on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 4:30 p.m. for a 2020 Yamaha WaveRunner EX Sport Watercraft. Show hours are Thursday and Friday from noon to 9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Buy one adult ticket and get one adult ticket free. Children ages 12 and younger are admitted free with a paid adult. Call 361-446-4040 or

inbox [BirminghamBoatShow@stx.rr.com](mailto:BirminghamBoatShow@stx.rr.com). The Boat Show is at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

For the complete article please see:

<https://www.alabamane.wscenter.com/2020/01/23/rock-the-birmingham-boat-show-in-cant-miss-alabama/>



**Jan. 28 - The Fight for Woman’s Suffrage in Decatur (Decatur)**

On January 28, 1895, Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt spoke at the Echols Opera House in Decatur, AL about equal suffrage “and kindred subjects”. The Library invites you to come to meet Susan B. Anthony, portrayed by Courtney Blanchette, Mrs. Ellen Hidreth, portrayed by Terri Hildreth, and Mrs. Eva A. Sterrs, portrayed by Peggy Allen Towns. Learn about the women of Decatur who advocated for women’s suffrage and invited the famous activists to speak.

This free program will be held in the Community Room at Decatur Public Library. For more information call 256-340-5780.

**Feb. 8 "Spirit of Our Ancestors" Festival February 2020 (Plateau)**

Dr. Deborah G. Plant is the keynote speaker at the second annual "Spirit of Our Ancestors," on Saturday, Feb. 8, from Noon to 4 P.M. at Mobile County Training School. The event is hosted by the Clotilda Descendants Association.

Dr. Plant will address how she took the notes of famed anthropologist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston's 1927 interviews with Cudjo at his home in Mobile and turned them into what became a 2018 bestselling book, Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo.”

**Feb. 20 Dreams of Hope (Broadcasts on PBS nationwide)**

Birmingham's historic 16th Street Baptist Church welcomes Violins of Hope. Dreams of Hope is most uplifting with... "hope"... even though it's focused on the most terrible events in modern times.

See video trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IVyuCR6mo8>

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**200  
ALABAMA  
BICENTENNIAL**  
**Exhibitions**

**Making Alabama: A Bicentennial traveling exhibit**

Oct. 25 - Jan. 31 Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: The State Capitol



[click here to SHOP BICENTENNIAL](#)

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For other Bicentennial news related articles, [click here](#).

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