Welcome to the Banner

Bringing you information every Thursday on 200 years of statehood. Highlighting news and events celebrating Alabama.

“We The People: Alabama’s Defining Documents” on display
Bearing Witness: Art of Alabama Symposium
Camellias: In honor of our bicentennial, an ode to the state flower
Horton's “Celebration of Alabama” opens Bicentennial Weekend
The Christmas Ball

On this day in Alabama - November 7

Upcoming Events
Exhibitions
Help us @ 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, 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, and the many other towns and communities joining in the celebration. Don’t miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate with us. Join the party!
Some of Alabama’s most important documents are on display in Montgomery.

The state’s six constitutions are back in the Capital City, and will be available for you to see for a limited time at the Alabama Department of Archives & History.

The exhibition, a special bicentennial exhibition, is called "We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents." It features all six of Alabama's constitutions, along with the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama's separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. This exhibition will explore how these documents, some of the most important in state history, reflect their framers' values, hopes and fears.

The documents live at the Alabama Department of Archives & History permanently, but they are not always on display. A lot of work went into getting these ready for display. The Northeast Document Conservation Center in Massachusetts was called in to do intensive conservation work.

This exhibition spent about six weeks on display in Huntsville earlier this year. It will be on view in Montgomery through Dec. 31. Admission to the Museum of Alabama is always free.

During the exhibition, the Museum of Alabama will offer extended hours on Tuesday
and Thursday evenings from Nov. 5 through Dec. 12, excluding Thanksgiving week. ADAH staff will offer gallery talks on these evenings beginning at 6 p.m. The ADAH’s Museum Store will also be open.

For a complete schedule of gallery talks and more information about the exhibition, visit www.wethepeoplealabama.org or call (334) 353-3312.

John Kelly Fitzpatrick's, "Saturday Morning" at the MMFA

**Bearing Witness: Art of Alabama Symposium**

On the occasion of the bicentennial, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) will hold a symposium November 14-16, that will celebrate the rich visual arts traditions of the state—from the creations of Alabama’s native peoples to those of today.

The following related exhibitions will be open for viewing: Alabama Landscapes: Alabama Through the Ages, Cal Breed, and exhibitions related to Charles Shannon and works by Alabama women artists. The photograph Shugg Lampley at the Garden Gate
by Chester Higgins will also be on view.

For more information and a schedule please see https://mmfa.org/discover/adults/bearing-witness/

White Camellia

Camellias: In honor of our bicentennial, an ode to the state flower

From the article by Sherry Blanton on AnnistonStar.com:
Alabamans have been busy observing the state’s bicentennial — 200 years since Alabama declared statehood — with parades, exhibits and programs. Over these two centuries, we have seen turmoil and we have seen calm, and we sing “Sweet Home Alabama.”

Like other states Alabama has bragging rights to certain symbols. There are 21 Alabama symbols (including a state nut — the pecan). No state fruit; I would like to nominate the peach.

• State bird is the Northern flicker, also known as the yellowhammer (we are the only state to claim a woodpecker as state bird).
• State insect is the monarch butterfly.
• State butterfly and mascot is the eastern tiger swallowtail.
• State tree is the southern longleaf pine.
• State wildflower is the oakleaf hydrangea.
• State flower is the camellia.

One might have thought our state flower would be one native to our state or at least to the USA. The beloved camellia, however, has come thousands of miles (from China and Japan) to be planted and admired by residents (and the government). Large camellia displays abound in Alabama botanical gardens and home landscapes.

Our state wildflower, the oak leaf hydrangea, is a native and existed in Alabama since before the Europeans reached our shores.

Camellias are the perfect plant for the novice or the collector. They vary in size, form and growth habits. Camellia-lovers have access to a wide range of species and cultivars from which to choose, each one more beautiful than the other.

Thousands of named camellias are available for sale. They can bloom from late September to early spring. There are now more cold-tolerant and heat-tolerant hybrids, thus more gardeners in colder or warmer climate zones can share the wealth.

There are bloom colors for any enthusiast, from yellow to almost black. There are some that could actually be considered ground covers. Others, like the common camellia (japonica), can reach 12 feet high and as wide. Bloom sizes range from the enormous flower on ‘R. L. Wheeler’ to the diminutive blossoms of ‘Sparkling Burgundy.’

What is a gardener to do? Become knowledgeable about this dazzling ornamental shrub; choose the right camellia for the right place.

The most popular camellia is possibly the dramatic Camellia japonica; some cultivars have very large magnificent flowers; other blooms are dainty and delicate. Many of these blooms are so perfect they resemble porcelain (‘Nuccio’s Gem’).

Japonicas can become very large shrubs or small trees. Their glossy evergreen leaves make them a fantastic garden addition even when the blooming season is over. Some japonica cultivars can handle our heat; some cannot. Others can handle our cold, and others cannot. It is important to make choices based on your particular environment.

Japonicas also have blooming seasons: early, mid-season and late. The blooms can
stretch from early winter (about the time the sasanquas finish their bloom cycle) to early spring. My mother often said, “Camellias can break your heart; as soon as the flowers start to bloom, there is a frost and the flowers are gone.” (She was right, too!)

Another popular camellia is the Camellia sasanqua. Some gardeners are not as infatuated with the sasanqua, as the blooms are not as drop-dead gorgeous as those of the japonica. Sasanqua blooms tend to be smaller and less outstanding. The sasanqua shrub (or small tree) can have hundreds of blooms.

Sasanquas tend to better tolerate the sun and heat. They can get quite large, but they fit easily into the garden; they are less picky about the soil. They begin to bloom in late September, when there is not as much going on in the garden, and bloom all fall into very early winter. My favorite is ‘Jean May.’ This beauty does not have an over-the-top bloom but instead a charming pale pink blossom.

There are other camellias which may not be commonly found in homeowners’ gardens but merit a place. One is the Camellia sinensis. In Asia, it is grown to make tea, thus its alternate name “the tea plant.” In Alabama, it is grown for ornamental purposes. Typically, this camellia blooms in the fall; cultivars have fragrant flowers.

Camellia reticulata has spectacular flowers that tend to be bigger and bolder than those of the japonica. C. reticulata can get 50 feet tall, and it dislikes pruning. At times it can be difficult to find “the right place” for it, but it belongs in every camellia collection.

These are just a very small sample of the multitude of exquisite camellias you will find on the market. A wonderful way to get to know camellias is to visit garden centers during the blooming season. Prepare yourself to be overwhelmed! Take a big vehicle to bring your purchases home.

For the complete article please see https://www.annistonstar.com/features/home_garden/captivating-camellias-in-honor-of-alabama-s-bicentennial-ode/article_e6be7d96-fca9-11e9-a27a-b3f25a68cfba.html
Horton's “Celebration of Alabama” opens Bicentennial Weekend

The Alabama 200th Birthday Celebration weekend will open with a special benefit concert with renowned musician and music historian Bobby Horton on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Montgomery’s historic Capri Theatre.

Horton, widely recognized as one of the country’s leading authorities of music from the Civil War period, will paint a musical portrait of life in Alabama from the earliest days of our statehood through the 1850s.

“Music connects us through the centuries. It is how generations tell us who they were, how they lived, and what they believed in, especially in cultures and time periods when many didn’t read or write,” says Horton. “Any time you share stories and songs, you break bread with those who came before. Sharing our history in this way offers a unique connection.”

Tickets are $12 for general seating and $10 for Capri members. They can be purchased here. The concert proceeds from this event will support the National Multiple Sclerosis
The concert is just the start of the weekend-long finale of Alabama’s three-year bicentennial commemoration. Saturday events include a parade the dedication of Bicentennial Park and a festival concert and light show near the Capitol. Visit alabama200.org for information about the finale celebration and the concert.

The Christmas Ball

From the article by Tara Crisan-Sweatt on NewsAegis.com:

Alabama is turning 200 years old. For a relatively small state, it has much diverse natural beauty. Given the mountains on the Tennessee border to the sugar white sands on the Gulf Coast and all the greenery in between, one thing cannot be denied — she looks great for her age.

Throughout the nation, we are known for college football and some of the best soul food to ever touch the tongue. But our fair state is more than landscape, sports, and fried chicken. We also have a rich literary heritage and have contributed some of the greatest author's and their works to the world.

Harper Lee, author of the immortal “To Kill a Mockingbird” is from Monroeville. As was her childhood friend, Truman Capote. Humorist Fannie Flag is also a native. And the Whistle Stop Cafe where they serve those Fried Green Tomatoes is just a stone's throw away in Irondale.

That is just a few among many.
Two more are Elizabeth Lee Sorrell and Sandra J.S. Coleman. These sisters are not only Alabamians but daughters of Ashville. And they have given children countless hours of entertainment with their many works: the “Doofy the Hippo” Series, “Black and White” and “The Life of a Firework” series among others.

And on Nov. 29, Ashville will be hosting The Christmas Ball to commemorate Alabama's bicentennial, St. Clair County's first families and the latest two books dedicated to the memory of their friend, Chris Porter, also an Alabama native. The event will be held appropriately at Ashville's Historic Masonic Lodge. It begins at 5 p.m. and lasts until 7 p.m.

All who wish to come are welcome to attend and celebrate Alabama history, literature and heritage.

The average person doesn't get many opportunities to attend balls anymore. And, for this one, no fairy godmother is required.

For the complete article please see https://www.newsaeigis.com/community/all-about-ashville-the-christmas-ball/article_662e39d4-ec53-11e9-aeb8-0fd9d984c647.html
The Scottsboro Boys

November 7, 1932

In *Powell v. Alabama*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the original guilty verdicts given to the nine Scottsboro Boys by an all-white jury. Falsely accused of raping two white women on a train, the Scottsboro Boys were not given access to a lawyer until shortly before the trial, with little time to prepare a legal defense. The Supreme Court’s ruling declared that the right to be represented by a lawyer with adequate time to prepare for trial was fundamental to a fair trial. The ruling was the first time the Court had reversed a state criminal conviction for a violation of a criminal procedural provision of the United States Bill of Rights.

[http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1456](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1456)

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Nov. 1-11 – Clean Home Alabama Initiative (State-wide)
Community college students, faculty and staff will serve alongside residents and members of several community organizations on Clean Home Alabama days for a number of beautification and litter pickup projects in Alabama’s counties. Several community organizations have already committed to projects. Visit [www.accs.edu/CleanHomeAL](http://www.accs.edu/CleanHomeAL).

Nov. 3-Dec 31 – We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents (Montgomery)
Celebrate Alabama’s bicentennial with the documents that defined our state and shaped its history. All six of Alabama’s constitutions will be on view together in a special exhibition presented by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The exhibition will also highlight intensive conservation work recently completed on the constitutions and the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama’s separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. The ordinance will also be included in the exhibition. Visit [https://www.wethepeoplealabama.org/](https://www.wethepeoplealabama.org/)

Nov. 6-9 – Alabama Frontier Days (Wetumpka)
Using Fort Toulouse - Fort Jackson Park as its historical backdrop, Alabama Frontier Days focuses on demonstrating life on the southern frontier during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The public can experience this “living history” as many frontier crafts and trades are demonstrated by specialists dressed in historic costume.
Visit https://fttoulousejackson.org/frontierdays/

Nov. 6 & 7 – Teacher Professional Development Workshops on Alabama's Six Constitutions (Montgomery)
Featuring the Alabama Department of Archives and History's new bicentennial exhibition We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents, these day-long workshops for grades 3-12 teachers will delve into the history of Alabama's six constitutions and provide valuable tools and resources for incorporating them into your classroom curriculum. Visit http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=rmg54lcb&oeidk=a07egmle02j3eae74a2

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day at Battleship Memorial Park (Mobile)
Battleship Memorial Park will be a great site to celebrate Veterans day. The Alabama Bicentennial Commission will be hosting a free admission day at the park. You are invited to come and celebrate Alabama’s veterans and spend a day touring the park. Please make plans to participate in our special events throughout the day. Parachutists will be jumping onto the field in the early afternoon. Veterans Day Celebrations and the Parade of Flags in the Aircraft Pavilion is at 3:00 p.m. The Veterans Day Concert by the Mobile Pops is at 7:00 p.m. All events are free of charge. Tents will be set-up on the grounds for food service. Kennels are available for those traveling with pets. Visit www.ussalabama.com

Nov. 13 – An evening with Ishmael Jaffree and Ronnie Williams (Tuskegee)
Join Legal Services Alabama from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for an intimate discussion, as we honor former LSA attorneys Ishmael Jaffree and Ronnie Williams of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of Wallace v Jaffree of 1985. For more information call 334-832-1427

Nov. 14-16 – Bearing Witness: Art of Alabama (Montgomery)
On the occasion of the bicentennial, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts will hold a symposium that will celebrate the rich visual arts traditions of the state—from the creations of Alabama’s native peoples to those of today. Free to attend, but you must register. Visit https://mmfa.org/discover/adults/-bearing-witness/

Dec. 8 – Bicentennial Pioneer Holiday Homes Tour (McCalla)
The West Jefferson Co. Historical Society will celebrate with a Bicentennial Pioneer Holiday Homes Tour. There will be a Bicentennial historic marker dedication, blessing & ribbon-cutting of the new roof on the Sadler Pioneer House. Come and enjoy period decorations, music and refreshments.

Dec. 13 – "Music of the South" A Concert with Bobby Horton (Montgomery)
The Alabama 200th Birthday Celebration weekend will open with a special benefit concert with renowned musician and music historian Bobby Horton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec.13, at the Capri Theatre.

Horton, widely recognized as one of the country’s leading authorities of music from the Civil War period, will paint a musical portrait of life in Alabama from the earliest days of our statehood through the 1850s. Tickets are $12 for general seating and $10 for Capri members. They can be purchased here. Visit Capritheatre.org or Alabama200.org for more information.

Dec. 14 – Alabama 200 Birthday Celebration (Montgomery)
On December 14th, there is only one place to be: Alabama’s Capital City for the grand finale of Alabama’s three-year bicentennial commemoration. This is sure to be the state’s biggest birthday party—at least in our first 200 years! Visit https://alabama200.org/alabama-200-birthday-celebration/ for a full schedule of events.

Go to Alabama200.org/events for more information
on these and other events.

Exhibitions

We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents
Nov. 3-Dec 31 – Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: Alabama Department of Archives & History

Unframed Images: Photography from the collection of P. H. Polk
Nov. 1 - Nov. 29 Dale Co., City: Dothan, Venue: Troy University Dothan Campus Library
Dec. 2 - 30 Jefferson Co., City: Birmingham, Venue: Springville Road Public Library

Alabama Justice: The cases and faces that changed a nation

Making Alabama: A Bicentennial traveling exhibit
Nov. 3 - Dec. 12 Tuscaloosa Co., City: Tuscaloosa, Venue: Tuscaloosa Co. Public Library
Nov. 4 - Dec. 20 Washington Co., City: Chatom, Venue: Washington Co. Public Library
Nov. 6 - Dec. 14 Morgan Co., City: Decatur, Venue: Alabama Center for the Arts
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