Welcome to the Banner

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

Alabama 200 Birthday Celebration

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On this day in Alabama - November 27

Upcoming Events

Exhibitions
Alabama 200 Birthday Celebration

On the weekend of December 14, there is only one place to be: Alabama's Capital City for the Grand Finale of Alabama's Bicentennial Commemoration.

Go to al200finale.org for more information on these and other events.

This is sure to be the state’s biggest birthday party—at least in our first 200 years! Throughout the weekend, Alabama’s people, places and stories will be celebrated with concerts, parades and family activities.

Scheduled events

Friday, Dec 13
Music of the South with Bobby Horton - 7:30 p.m. - Capri Theatre

Saturday, Dec 14
Alabama Bicentennial Parade - 10 a.m. - Dexter Avenue

Alabama Bicentennial Park Dedication - 12 noon - Alabama State Capitol steps
Alabama Bicentennial Festival - 1 p.m. - State Capitol Complex, Department of Archives & History, and Downtown Montgomery

Additional Sites:

- Alabama State House
- Alabama State Council on the Arts
- Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church
- Rosa Parks Museum
- Old Alabama Town
- Freedom Rides Museum
- Alabama Cattlemen’s Association

Alabama Bicentennial Concert and Finale Presentation - 4 p.m. State Capitol Steps

**Sunday, Dec 15**

Encore Finale Presentation - Time TBD - Alabama Attorney General Building

For an updated list of events go to [al200finale.org](http://al200finale.org)

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**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](http://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!

Bicentennial Stories from Around the State

Gov. Kay Ivey with students in DeKalb Co.

Governor Ivey makes stop in DeKalb Co.

From the article by Mark Huber on WYSFM.com:
Alabama Governor Kay Ivey made a stop in Dekalb County, on Friday, Nov. 15. This trip was part of her 67 county tour for the Alabama Bicentennial and to present Seth Maddox, 2019 Microsoft PowerPoint champion, and Dekalb Tourism with accommodations.

Gov. Ivey was introduced by Randy Owen of the super group Alabama, after a video presentation about Dekalb County, from Dekalb Tourism.
Gov. Ivey said, “December 14, of this year, Alabama will celebrate its 200th birthday. In these 200 years, we have celebrated some incredible people and milestones.”

Governor Ivey thanked state Sen. Steve Livingston and House Majority Leader Nathaniel Ledbetter for their work on the “Rebuild Alabama Act.” She said that through the “Rebuild Alabama Act” an old bridge in Rainsville, (Boozer Bridge) would be replaced with a brand new bridge.

Gov. Ivey also presented an accommodation to Dekalb County Tourism and Marketing Organization, in recognition of their remarkable work in developing the tourism industry throughout the area.

Gov. Ivey closed by inviting everyone to attend the Alabama Bicentennial Celebration at the State’s Capital on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019.

For the complete article please see https://wvsmfm.com/governor-kay-ivey-presents-seth-maddox-dekalb-tourism-with-accommodations/
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 Society Alabama-Mississippi Chapter.

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.
As part of the celebration of Alabama Day, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church presents an Alabama Bicentennial event titled "A 200 Years’ Conversation: Where Do We Go from Here?" on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the historic sanctuary and museum at 454 Dexter Ave. in Montgomery.

The event which is offered as a recognition of Alabama’s bicentennial and is supported by a grant from the Bicentennial Committee, will take an in-depth look at the role of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in the development of faith, service, and activism in the city of Montgomery and the state of Alabama. Some of the church’s living pastors will reflect on their time as Dexter’s spiritual leader as well as the blessing and weight of serving in the shadow of Dr. Martin Luther King’s world-renowned time as pastor there.

Rev. Cromwell Handy, Dexter’s current pastor, remarked that “this type of event is important because we can never get too far from our history – or we just might repeat it. That’s okay in some instances, but most of the time, it’s not productive.” Rev. Handy will be joined by Rev. Robert Dickerson, Jr. and Rev. Boykin Sanders in a panel discussion during the event. “To be able to stand in the same pulpit as Dr. King is not to
be taken lightly, and it’s very humbling. We want to share what that feels like during this important time in Alabama’s history.”

Also scheduled is a roundtable discussion with audience interaction by local community leaders who have lent to the development of Montgomery & Alabama history in their own rights. Moderated by author/entrepreneur Tonya Scott Williams along with higher education administrator/author Dr. Rolundus R. Rice, "A 200 Years’ Conversation: Where Do We Go from Here?" will inspire, enlighten and challenge Alabamian’s of all ages, ethnicities, cultural and economic backgrounds.

Highlighting the roundtables will be dynamic performances of Dr. King’s "I Have a Dream" speech by Alabama State University Theatre alumni Alonzo Caldwell, dance from current BFA Dance major Ke’Yana Paradise Robinson, a presentation by Valiant Cross Academy, and music from Montgomery’s own Robert E. Lee High School Chorale.

For more information contact Wanda Battle of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Museum at (334) 819-6044.

Alabama Day celebrated in Huntsville and Madison
Huntsville and Madison have a big day planned to celebrate Alabama’s official 200th birthday, as well as Madison’s 150th birthday. All three events will take place on Alabama Day, Dec. 14, celebrating the past while toasting the future.

**A Birthday Party 200 Years in the Making**
Join in the fun at EarlyWorks and Constitution Hall Park on Dec. 14 from 2-4 p.m. for a birthday party 200 years in the making, right in the center of where Alabama was born. It will be the biggest birthday party ever, with cupcakes, ice cream, games, music, free museum admission and a children’s musical production of “Sign Off for Alabama.” Bring a donation of school supplies for Free to Teach as your gift as we celebrate Alabama’s 200th birthday.

**Christmas on Main with Christmas Capers and the Polar Express Parade**
Celebrate Madison’s 150th birthday and Alabama’s 200th birthday in downtown Madison on Dec. 14, starting at 5 p.m. Christmas Capers will re-enact a scene from Madison’s past as 25 rubber chickens with gift vouchers tied to their legs will be tossed from the roof of Hughes Hardware! (Many years ago, live chickens were thrown off the roof with money tied to their legs) Then sit back to watch the Polar Express Christmas parade while sipping hot chocolate and eating birthday cake to round out the historic birthday celebrations.

**Twickenham Spirit of Christmas Past Homes and Luminary Tour**
There is no better way to honor Alabama’s 200th birthday than to go back to where it all began in downtown Huntsville for the 41st annual Twickenham Spirit of Christmas Past Homes and Luminary Tour on Dec. 14 from 5-8 p.m. Visit Weeden House, First Methodist Church and four private homes decked out in their holiday finery while strolling through the luminary-lit and music-filled 200-year-old streets.

For more information please see [www.huntsville.org](http://www.huntsville.org)
A church bell in the Christian tradition is a bell which is rung in a church for a variety of ceremonial purposes. Traditionally, they are used to call worshippers to the church. They are also rung on special occasions such as a wedding or a funeral service.

The primary purpose of ringing church bells in modern times is to signify the time for worshippers to gather for a church service. The tradition dates back to 400 AD when Paulinus of Nola (Italy) first introduced bells in association with a church. By the early Middle Ages, church bells had become common in northern Europe reflecting the influence of Irish missionaries.

Andalusia’s early churches are no exception. Many buildings featured architecturally-designed (no doubt) bell towers – the Baptist church behind the courthouse on Crescent Street, the Methodist church on Church Street, and the Presbyterian church on South Three Notch Street.

Even the Covington County Courthouse which stood in the middle of the public square until it was razed around 1917-18 had a clock and bell tower that was prominent.
That bell now rests in a monument on the present courthouse lawn thanks to the Speller Moates family who donated the old bell during America’s Bicentennial year of 1976.

The picture labeled, “A Ride of the Delegates 1912 Presbytery, Andalusia, Ala.,” proves that the bell tower of the First Presbyterian Church built during the five years of church construction from 1906 through 1911 had not even been completed in 1912. The bell tower that was eventually completed was actually replaced several times due to storm damage and other causes. Three pictures of the church exist that show entirely different bell towers.

In talking with some Presbyterians at the recent historical marker unveiling, no member living seems to know what happened to the bell. There apparently is no bell currently in the steeple and bell tower. Someone did remember something being said once about a rope which once existed that was used to pull the bell. “The Mystery of the Bell” – sounds like a Nancy Drew or a Victoria Holt mystery book. Can this mystery be solved?

The bell from the old Baptist church, the church that was torn down by the wrecking ball in the late 1950s, was installed at the new church on East Three Notch Street. (The stained glass windows were not saved but the bell was) According to the late Speller Moates who helped with the move, the bell has never been able to “ding” and “dong” quite alike! It is hardly noticeable to most folks.

Here we are in the last month of the Alabama 200 Bicentennial celebration. The Old Three Notch Chapter of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) has brought it to the city and county’s attention that the 70 chapters of the Alabama Society D.A.R. are inviting and encouraging everyone in Alabama to join together in ringing bells to celebrate statehood day in Alabama. It is hoped that bells across the state will ring at least one time and as many as 22 times in honor of Alabama becoming the 22nd state on Dec. 14, 1819.

All bells are welcome including historic bells, school bells, church bells in the city and country, fire house bells, city hall bells, people gathered in their local parks ringing bells, store owners ringing bells on the sidewalks, farmers ringing their dinner bells and even individuals standing in front of their homes ringing small bells.

The time proposed to ring the bells is Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 at noon. The Old Three Notch D.A.R. chapter will be handing out bells at the commemorative reception to be held at the Andalusia City Hall (10 a.m. – 12 noon) so Andalusia and Covington County citizens, spread the word. “Bicentennial Bells across Alabama” will be heard from our “southern shore” to the “northern vale.” May we all participate and thank God that
we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave – America and the great state of Alabama!

For the complete article please see https://www.andalusiastarnews.com/2019/11/23/remember-when-bicentennial-bells-across-alabama/

Dean Mosher with painting

**Baldwin Co. already looking forward to the next 200 years**

From the article by Allison Marlow on GulfCoastNewsToday.com:


They were all here. They’ve all been visited. They’ve all been told. The three-year long bicentennial celebration of the state’s founding, is nearly complete.

And now that 200 years have passed in Alabama’s history, its current residents are ready to create another 200 years that will be cherished, recognized and honored by those to come.
Last week the Baldwin County Commission Bicentennial Steering Committee hosted its final event, the culmination of three years of projects, events and celebrations.

A crowd gathered at the Daphne Civic Center for the unveiling of the final projects, artists’ renderings of the attack at Fort Mims, by Dean Mosher, and the battles at Fort Blakeley and Fort Bowyer, by Rick Reeves.

The paintings, each nearly as large as a dining room table, were dramatically unveiled from under a black cloth to the delight of attendees. Mosher and Reeves told the crowd how the effort to recreate realistic-looking and historically accurate pieces took years of research.

For the complete article please see [http://www.gulfcoastnewstoday.com/stories/already-looking-forward-to-the-next-200-years,86078?](http://www.gulfcoastnewstoday.com/stories/already-looking-forward-to-the-next-200-years,86078?)

Senator Arthur Orr
Decatur High School is celebrating Alabama's Bicentennial

From the article by Sue Wilson on WAAYTV.com:

Students gathered in the auditorium Friday morning to learn about Alabama's history and future. They heard from historians, state lawmakers and the governor's bicentennial committee.

Senator Arthur Orr encouraged students to stay in Alabama and join the workforce here, because the state needs them to help build the future.

Alabama's bicentennial celebrations wrap up on Dec. 14 with a grand finale in Montgomery.

For the complete article please see https://www.waaytv.com/content/news/Alabama-Bicentennial-celebrated-at-Decatur-High-School-565337891.html
November 27, 1863

Huntsville native John Hunt Morgan and six Confederate officers escaped from the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio. Known as the “Thunderbolt of the Confederacy” for his daring raids into Union territory, Morgan and his men escaped from their cells by tunneling into the prison yard and climbing the outer prison walls with an improvised rope. Morgan and three of the officers then boarded a train for Cincinnati, jumped off before reaching the depot, and crossed the Ohio River aboard a skiff operated by southern sympathizers. Morgan eventually made his way to Richmond, Virginia, where he was honored by a parade and praised by the Virginia legislature.

http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3531
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/.

Dec. 5 – 200 Years of Alabama's Music! (Fairhope)
Many great musicians hail from Alabama and have shared the music of Alabama with the world. Come experience 200 years of Alabama's music history at Fairhope Public Library! Musicians will perform music genres such as blues, jazz, country, rock, and Sacred Harp which began in Alabama. The musicians will lead the audience in singing songs about Alabama! Free and open to the public.

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.

Dec. 14 – Alabama Bicentennial Celebration in Old Alabama Town (Montgomery)
Join us in Old Alabama Town as we join the celebration of Alabama’s 200th Bicentennial. Crafts people, costumed interpreters, vendors, and more make this a day of fun. Free admission and public parking available on the corner of Columbus and McDonough Streets. Visit http://www.oldalabamatown.com/.

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