



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD AWARDS 2016 HISTORICAL RECORDS PRESERVATION GRANTS

Montgomery, AL (07/28/16) - The Alabama State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) recently awarded \$28,476 in grants to local historical entities and governments. Funds for the awards were provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) State Board Programming Grant. Below is a description of the projects funded:

Alabama Black Lutheran Heritage Association: \$2,117 to microfilm, digitize, and provide a website for scattered documents related to the African-American Lutheran churches and schools that operated in Alabama.

Alabama Museum of Natural History: \$2,480 to organize forty-one cubic feet of past director's accession and donation files to locate information about the artifacts in the collection. The project work plan includes the creation of a finding aid to facilitate researcher access.

Anniston Museum of Natural History: \$2,000 to reformat ephemera and film from the museum's archives into digital content and to rehouse archival materials.

Autauga County Heritage Association: \$4,664 to preserve, scan, and make publicly accessible photographs from the Pratt Gin Mill, and to install ultraviolet film on the museum's windows to block harmful light rays.

Baldwin County Archives: \$1,955 to hire a temporary worker to organize, preserve, digitize, and make publically accessible a portion of the historical documents held by the archives.

Cherokee County Historical Museum: \$200 to fund the purchase of two portable scanners for use by researchers to scan large county record volumes.

Elmore County Probate Archives: \$2,414 to organize probate records into archival containers and to purchase a dehumidifier to counter high humidity levels in the archives.

Etowah Historical Society: \$2,387 to acquire digital camera equipment to digitize 50 county record books and make the images available to researchers.

Hobson City/University of Alabama: \$1,000 to purchase cabinets for storage of a map collection and to fund travel to Hobson City by University of Alabama students to process and inventory the collection.

Limestone County Commission: \$1,895 to install ultraviolet filters on windows of the rooms where records are stored and to purchase a digital humidity/temperature tracking system.

Marengo County History and Archives Museum Foundation, Inc: \$1,718 to purchase an overhead scanner and USB flash drive to use in digitizing deteriorating loose probate records of Marengo County.

City of Sylacauga: \$2,597 to digitize 100 years of the city's historical records.

University of West Alabama: \$1,700 to hire a student worker to digitize a collection of Sumter County Circuit Court records.

USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park: \$1,000 to inventory archival collections, rehouse the materials in archival containers, and monitor humidity levels.

Government Services Division archivists from the Alabama Department of Archives and History will assist recipients throughout the grant cycle (ending in February 2017) to complete their projects. At the conclusion of the grant period, the 14 recipients will contribute a total of \$40,138 in cost-sharing funds and volunteer work hours to these projects.

In addition to the awards made for records preservation, the SHRAB also awarded two \$175 grants to support enrollment in the Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs) for History Organizations overseen by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Grants were awarded to the **Stockton Heritage Museum** and the **Marengo County History and Archives Museum Foundation, Inc.** "The StEPs program is a great way for local history organizations to develop sustainable programs by incorporating national standards into their daily operations," said ADAH StEPs coordinator, John Hardin.

For more information on the SHRAB's historical records grant program, contact Becky Hébert, at (334) 242-4452 or becky.hebert@archives.alabama.gov. For information on the StEPs program, please contact John Hardin at 334-353-5441 or john.hardin@archives.alabama.gov.

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