WE ALL BELONG TO A LARGER-THAN-LIFE STORY, OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MAKING.

AS ALABAMIANS, OUR STORY IS BEING CRAFTED BY THE MOMENTS THAT BOTH DEFINE AND REFINE WHO WE ARE. A TIGHTLY WOVEN TAPESTRY OF TRIALS, TRIUMPHS AND TRANSFORMATIONS, THIS VIBRANT TALE CELEBRATES OUR COMMONALITIES AND HONORS OUR INDIVIDUALITIES. IT IS AN EPIC ADVENTURE, TWISTING ITS WAY THROUGH THE PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF THE PAST AND TAKING HOPEFUL TURNS FOR THE FUTURE. ITS PLOT IS STEEPED IN LITTLE-KNOWN SECRETS AND MONUMENTAL EVENTS FOREVER CARVED IN HISTORY. ITS SETTING SPANS EVERY COUNTY IN THE STATE AND FEATURES A FULL AND FASCINATING CAST OF LOCAL, UNSUNG HEROES AND WORLD-FAMOUS CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE. WELCOME TO THE UNPRECEDENTED, UNABRIDGED AND OFTEN UNEXPECTED STORY OF MAKING ALABAMA, A BICENTENNIAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT.
CONVICTION (1860 - 1875)
Many Alabamians of this time were willing to die for their convictions. The Civil War would not only rage on battlefields, but within homes and communities where families were divided. Most of the state escaped major military action until the final months of the war, but suffering touched everyone. The aftermath of the war was almost as crippling as the war itself. The institution of slavery was abolished, and African Americans, who made up nearly half of the population, would strive to make a new life for themselves. Although the war fundamentally changed Alabama, it did little to uproot values and convictions that drove the state to war in the first place.

WONDER (pre-history - 1700)
Long ago, vast oceans and teeming forests covered Alabama. Deep caverns formed over many millennia. The earth was a curious place full of wonderful mysteries and majestic creatures. The ancient world is cloaked in many mysteries. All we know of prehistoric times has been gleaned from archeology and geology. Fossils and artifacts reveal the inner workings of lost societies. The arrival of European explorers in the 16th century marked the end of an age and the beginning of colonization.

CONFLICT (1700 - 1815)
The era of territorial conflicts was etched with epic battles, shifting alliances, and fate-altering treaties. European exploration disrupted the sovereignty of Indian nations who had inhabited the land for centuries. During the 1700s, France, England, and Spain competed for a foothold in present-day Alabama through trade, colonization, and warfare. They forged alliances with Indian nations and established forts to protect their settlements. The United States’ victory in the Revolutionary War brought monumental change and shifted territorial control once again.
The Creek War of 1813-1814 divided the Creek Nation. By the end of the period, the United States ousted foreign monarchies, defeated the Native Americans, and claimed ownership of what would become Alabama.

FEVER (1815 - 1860)
From adventure and survival to wealth and captivity, the era was one of feverish growth for Alabama. Our state's transformation from a rugged frontier to an antebellum society unfolded within a few decades. Settlers poured into the new territory on a quest for land. Yeomen farmers put down roots and began to form small communities. Alabama was admitted to the Union as the 22nd state. Planters rushed to Alabama where lush lands were ripe for raising cotton and brought thousands of enslaved laborers with them. Our state's destiny rested on the constitutional rights of slaveholding states. Alabamians grew increasingly adamant about defending those rights, and by the end of the period, Alabama was on the verge of war.
CHANGE (1965 - 1990)
Larger-than-life struggles, daring military missions, and bold stands for justice defined the era. The events that unfolded in Alabama between World War II and the Modern Civil Rights Movement set into motion a cultural revolution that transformed our nation. As the U.S. prepared to enter World War II, Alabama was poised for a major role in the struggle to defeat Fascism. At the same time, Alabama was completely segregated. Citizens of every class and color rallied to support the war effort. As the war came to a close, African Americans challenged injustice on the home front with renewed vigor. Ordinary citizens became great champions of change. Through their efforts, the monumental, national Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts were passed. Postwar struggle laid the way to revolutionary change in the next decades.

POWER (1875 - 1940)
Alabama rose to power as the most heavily industrialized Southern state during this period. Iron and coal booms transformed our economy and led to explosive growth in urban populations. Higher education flourished all over the state. Delegates convened in Montgomery, and the 1901 constitution was ratified, defining our state’s priorities for years to come. Women started social justice movements calling for reforms. Thousands of Alabamians were drafted to serve in World War I and died fighting for our country overseas. The Great Depression led laid-off workers to leave the larger cities and return to rural farms to live off the land. Huge infrastructure projects created jobs and paved the way to statewide development. This was an era of widespread economic and political transformation propelled by the unbreakable force of the human spirit.

STRUGGLE (1940 - 1965)
Larger-than-life struggles, daring military missions, and bold stands for justice defined the era. The events that unfolded in Alabama between World War II and the Modern Civil Rights Movement set into motion a cultural revolution that transformed our nation. As the U.S. prepared to enter World War II, Alabama was poised for a major role in the struggle to defeat Fascism. At the same time, Alabama was completely segregated. Citizens of every class and color rallied to support the war effort. As the war came to a close, African Americans challenged injustice on the home front with renewed vigor. Ordinary citizens became great champions of change. Through their efforts, the monumental, national Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts were passed. Postwar struggle laid the way to revolutionary change in the next decades.

HOPE (1990 - future)
Alabamians of today belong to an unfolding story over two hundred years in the making, and the modern era is one of the state’s most hopeful chapters yet. Alabama is more diverse and global than ever. Sweeping demographic changes are enriching and expanding Alabama’s cultural landscape. The modern era is full of vibrant people who are making Alabama. From the tiniest towns to the biggest cities, everyone has an important role to play in what our state becomes.

* AHF regrets an error in the exhibit. Oscar Adams, Jr. was appointed to the Alabama Supreme Court as an Associate by Governor Fob James in 1980 and was elected Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 1982. Adams never served as the Court’s Chief Justice.
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**save the date**

**july 12. birmingham.**

**ramsay high school, 6 pm.**

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*three pulitzer winners. three towns. in alabama.**

FALL 2018

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Questions to Ask & Share

WONDER (pre-history – 1700)
- What do you wonder about this time period?
- Choose one adjective that describes Alabama before people lived here.
- How do you imagine that your community would have looked during the Pre-historic time period?
- Do you know if there is archaeological evidence of what life was like in your community in the distant past?
- What sort of things do you think early explorers might have been looking for when they reached what is now Alabama?

CONFlict (1700 – 1815)
- What does the word ‘conflict’ mean?
- What types of conflicts did you learn about from this time period?
- What suggestions could you give for resolving some of the conflicts?
- How do you think someone your age would have felt living in this time period?
- What evidence of the conflicts of this period exists today in your community?

FEVER (1815 – 1860)
- What is Alabama Fever?
- What role did cotton play during this period?
- How did Alabama Fever affect different groups of people?
  - Settlers
  - Native Americans
  - Enslaved workers
- What do you think school would have been like during this time period?
- Is Alabama Fever happening today in your community?

CONVICTION (1860 - 1875)
- What does the word ‘conviction’ mean?
- What does it mean to secede?
- Why did Alabama secede from the United States?
- How did the Civil War affect education in Alabama?
- Can you describe Alabama’s relationship with the U.S. government before and after the Civil War?
- How did that relationship affect Alabamians?

Power (1875 – 1940)
- List three examples of power seen in the graphic.
- In this time period, who had the power – and why?
- How did power affect different groups of people?
- How did Alabamians in power in the federal government influence our state’s growth/economy?
- How was your community affected by events in this period?
- Do you know anyone who grew up during this time period? Ask them what they remember.

STRUGGLE (1940 – 1965)
- How would you describe what you see in the graphic?
- What is a boycott? How is it related to a demonstration?
- How did relationships between people living in Alabama change during this time period?
- What were barriers to voting during this time period? Why were barriers in place? What are barriers to voting today?
- Have any struggles taken place in your community?
- What struggles are taking place today?
- Do you know anyone who grew up during this time period? Ask them what they remember.

CHANGE (1965 – 1990)
- Do you know the building pictured? Why is it important?
- Why might court decisions be depicted as birds?
- How is the ‘space race’ important to Alabama? What role did Alabamians play?
- What change did your community see during this time period?
- Do you know anyone who grew up during this time period? Ask them what they remember.

HOPE (1990 – present/future)
- What state symbols do you see in this graphic?
- What’s an important event that has happened in Alabama in your lifetime?
- If you were planning the Tricentennial or raising funds for a statue, what would represent your community?
- What makes you hopeful for the future of your community?
- What makes you hopeful about your future?
Teaching with Alabama documents

www.Alabama200.org/educators/primary-sources

For a full statewide tour schedule

Making Alabama.org

Your complete guide to the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

#HBD EOA!

Encyclopedia of Alabama is a free online resource of Alabama history, culture, geography, and natural environment that provides trustworthy and authoritative information on a wide range of topics.

www.encyclopediaofalabama.org

Want to host Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit?

If your community or organization is interested in learning more about hosting this free exhibit, contact our Director of Operations, Laura Adamson at 205-339-1973 or ladinson@alabamahumanities.org.
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founded by singer-songwriter Larry Long, whose work is the celebration of everyday heroes.
(www.larrylong.org).
Here I Stand is available for purchase from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings: https://folkways.si.edu.