These beautiful books celebrating Alabama’s 200th birthday make perfect gifts! There is something in this wide selection for every age and interest. Keep these treasures in mind as you’re stocking up on stocking stuffers!

In honor of Alabama’s bicentennial, we are offering readers **40% OFF** the titles in this catalog through December 21st. **Use discount code AL200 at checkout.**

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Alabama

The Making of an American State

Edwin C. Bridges

A thorough, accessible, and heavily illustrated history of Alabama

*Alabama: The Making of an American State* is itself a watershed event in the long and storied history of the state of Alabama. Here, presented for the first time ever in a single, magnificently illustrated volume, Edwin C. Bridges conveys the magisterial sweep of Alabama's rich, difficult, and remarkable history with verve, eloquence, and an unblinking eye.

From Alabama's earliest fossil records to its settlement by Native Americans and later by European settlers and African slaves, from its territorial birth pangs and statehood through the upheavals of the Civil War and the civil rights movement, Bridges makes evident in clear, direct storytelling the unique social, political, economic, and cultural forces that have indelibly shaped this historically rich and unique American region.

Illustrated lavishly with maps, archival photographs, and archaeological artifacts, as well as art works, portraiture, and specimens of Alabama craftsmanship—many never before published—*Alabama: The Making of an American State* makes evident as rarely seen before Alabama's most significant struggles, conflicts, achievements, and developments.

Drawn from decades of research and the deep archival holdings of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, this volume will be the definitive resource for decades to come for anyone seeking a broad understanding of Alabama's evolving legacy.

**Edwin C. Bridges** served as the director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History for thirty years and is the coauthor of *Georgia's Signers and the Declaration of Independence*.

“*Alabama: The Making of an American State* is an exceedingly welcome and useful work. It is a popular history designed for everyone—and everyone should read it as the author tells the story of the state in a ‘warts and all’ fashion.”

— The Alabama Review

“This is not in the strictest terms a scholarly book. Bridges has read and digested scores of books and articles on Alabama history—indeed, he helped to create a goodly percent of that original scholarship—and here . . . he has told the story of our state, in his own pleasing style, for a general audience. This highly readable, smooth, one-volume study should be read by all Alabamians, especially those who wonder, as we often do, how did we get to this spot? . . . No discussion of this book should end without the highest praise for the illustrations. Bridges, the archivist, has assembled the best imaginable collection of maps, documents, paintings, photographs—many never published before. Each one, from photos of convict labor camps to the burning bus in Anniston, to a chicken farm in Monroe County, evokes its time and place with great power.”

— The Tuscaloosa News
Alabama

The History of a Deep South State, Bicentennial Edition

William Warren Rogers, Robert David Ward, Leah Rawls Atkins, and Wayne Flynt

A new and up-to-date edition of Alabama's history to celebrate the state's bicentennial

Alabama: The History of a Deep South State, Bicentennial Edition is a comprehensive narrative account of the state from its earliest days to the present. This edition, updated to celebrate the state's bicentennial year, offers a detailed survey of the colorful, dramatic, and often controversial turns in Alabama's evolution. Organized chronologically and divided into three main sections—the first concluding in 1865, the second in 1920, and the third bringing the story to the present—makes clear and interprets the major events that occurred during Alabama's history within the larger context of the South and the nation.

Once the home of aboriginal inhabitants, Alabama was claimed and occupied by a number of European nations prior to becoming a permanent part of the United States in 1819. A cotton and slave state for more than half of the nineteenth century, Alabama seceded in 1861 to join the Confederate States of America, and occupied an uneasy and uncertain place in America's post-Civil War landscape. Alabama's role in the twentieth century has been equally tumultuous and dramatic.

General readers as well as scholars will welcome this up-to-date and scrupulously researched history of Alabama, which examines such traditional subjects as politics, military history, economics, race, and class. It contains essential accounts devoted to Native Americans, women, and the environment, as well as detailed coverage of health, education, organized labor, civil rights, and the many cultural developments, from literature to sport, that have enriched Alabama's history. The stories of individual leaders, from politicians to creative artists, are also highlighted. A key facet of this landmark historical narrative is the strong emphasis placed on the common everyday people of Alabama, those who have been rightly described as the “bone and sinew” of the state.

Leah Rawls Atkins served as the founding director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities at Auburn University from 1985 to 1995.

Wayne Flynt is a distinguished university professor emeritus, Auburn University. He has published fourteen books, including, Poor but Proud: Alabama’s Poor Whites and a memoir, Keeping the Faith: Ordinary People and Extraordinary Lives.

William Warren Rogers (1929–2017) spent nearly four decades as professor of history at Florida State University, where his first doctoral student was Wayne Flynt.

Robert David Ward (1929–2006) spent his teaching career at Georgia Sout hern University where he served as department chair, founding tennis coach, and a renowned teacher and director of theses.
Alabama Creates

200 Years of Art and Artists

Edited by Elliot A. Knight
Preface by Al Head | Introduction by Gail C. Andrews

A visually rich survey of two hundred years of Alabama fine arts and artists

Alabama artists have been an integral part of the story of the state, reflecting a wide-ranging and multihued sense of place through images of the land and its people. Quilts, pottery, visionary paintings, sculpture, photography, folk art, and abstract art have all contributed to diverse visions of Alabama’s culture and environment. The works of art included in this volume have all emerged from a distinctive milieu that has nourished the creation of powerful visual expressions, statements that are both universal and indigenous.

Published to coincide with the state’s bicentennial, Alabama Creates: 200 Years of Art and Artists features ninety-four of Alabama’s most accomplished, noteworthy, and influential practitioners of the fine arts from 1819 to the present. The book highlights a broad spectrum of artists who worked in the state, from its early days to its current and contemporary scene, exhibiting the full scope and breadth of Alabama art.

This retrospective volume features biographical sketches and representative examples of each artist’s most masterful works. Alabamians like Gay Burke, William Christenberry, Roger Brown, Thornton Dial, Frank Fleming, the Gee’s Bend Quilters, Lonnie Holley, Dale Kennington, Charlie Lucas, Kerry James Marshall, David Parrish, and Bill Traylor are compared and considered with other nationally significant artists.

Alabama Creates is divided into four historical periods, each spanning roughly fifty years and introduced by editor Elliot A. Knight. Knight contextualizes each era with information about the development of Alabama art museums and institutions and the evolution of college and university art departments. The book also contains an overview of the state’s artistic heritage by Gail C. Andrews, director emerita of the Birmingham Museum of Art. Alabama Creates conveys in a sweeping and captivating way the depth of talent, the range of creativity, and the lasting contributions these artists have made to Alabama’s extraordinarily rich visual and artistic heritage.

Elliot A. Knight is executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts. He previously served there as visual arts program manager, deputy director, and director of the Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery.

Al Head is executive director emeritus of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Gail C. Andrews is director emerita of the Birmingham Museum of Art.

“Alabama artists have helped contextualize the state as a place that is embracing its past while visualizing its future. Artists such as the internationally hailed quilters of Gee’s Bend, public artist Rick Lowe, painters Jack Whitten and Thornton Dial, and photographer Carolyn Sherer have portrayed a richer understanding of Alabama that is appreciated not only by those of us who live here but also by the nation in general. Alabama would not have the exposure or the expanded worldview that are so apparent without the work of the visual artists who have helped us reveal the complexity, diversity, and multifaceted nature of our populations and our state. Alabama artists help us define who we are and what home is.”

—from the introduction by Gail C. Andrews

CONTRIBUTORS


12 x 10 / 264 PAGES
212 COLOR FIGURES / 36 B&W FIGURES

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Alabama Founders

Fourteen Political and Military Leaders Who Shaped the State

Herbert James Lewis

A biographical history of the forefathers who shaped the identity of Alabama politically, legally, economically, militarily, and geographically

While much has been written about the significant events in the history of early Alabama, there has been little information available about the people who participated in those events. In Alabama Founders: Fourteen Political and Military Leaders Who Shaped the State Herbert James Lewis provides an important examination of the lives of fourteen political and military leaders. These were the men who opened Alabama for settlement, secured Alabama's status as a territory in 1817 and as a state in 1819, and helped lay the foundation for the political and economic infrastructure of Alabama in its early years as a state.

While well researched and thorough, this book does not purport to be a definitive history of Alabama's founding. Lewis has instead narrowed his focus to only those he believes to be key figures—in clearing the territory for settlement, serving in the territorial government, working to achieve statehood, playing a key role at the Constitutional Convention of 1819, or being elected to important offices in the first years of statehood.

The founders who readied the Alabama Territory for statehood include Judge Harry Toulmin, Henry Hitchcock, and Reuben Saffold II. William Wyatt Bibb and his brother Thomas Bibb respectively served as the first two governors of the state, and Charles Tait, known as the “Patron of Alabama,” shepherded Alabama's admission bill through the US Senate. Military figures who played roles in surveying and clearing the territory for further settlement and development include General John Coffee, Andrew Jackson's aide and land surveyor, and Samuel Dale, frontiersman and hero of the “Canoe Fight.” Those who were instrumental to the outcome of the Constitutional Convention of 1819 and served the state well in its early days include John W. Walker, Clement Comer Clay, Gabriel Moore, Israel Pickens, and William Rufus King.

Herbert James Lewis is retired from the US Department of Justice and currently serves on the board of directors of the Alabama Historical Association. He is author of Clearing the Thickets: A History of Antebellum Alabama and Lost Capitals of Alabama. He has also published articles in the Alabama Review and Alabama Heritage.
Early Alabama
An Illustrated Guide to the Formative Years, 1798–1826
Mike Bunn

An illustrated guidebook documenting the history and sites of the state’s origins

Alabama’s territorial and early statehood years represent a crucial formative period in its past, a time in which the state both literally and figuratively took shape. The story of the remarkable changes that occurred within Alabama as it transitioned from frontier territory to a vital part of the American union in less than a quarter century is one of the most compelling in the state’s past. This history is rich with stories of charismatic leaders, rugged frontiersmen, a dramatic and pivotal war that shaped the state’s trajectory, raging political intrigue, and pervasive sectional rivalry.

Many of Alabama’s modern cities, counties, and religious, educational, and governmental institutions first took shape within this time period. It also gave way to the creation of sophisticated trade and communication networks, the first large-scale cultivation of cotton, and the advent of the steamboat. Contained within this story of growth and innovation is a parallel story, the dispossession of Native groups of their lands and the forced labor of slaves, which fueled much of Alabama’s early development.

Early Alabama: An Illustrated Guide to the Formative Years, 1798–1826 serves as a traveler’s guidebook with a fast-paced narrative that traces Alabama’s developmental years. Despite the great significance of this era in the state’s overall growth, these years are perhaps the least understood in all of the state’s history and have received relatively scant attention from historians. Mike Bunn has created a detailed guide—appealing to historians and the general public—for touring historic sites and structures including selected homes, churches, businesses, government buildings, battlefields, cemeteries, and museums.

Mike Bunn is director of Historic Blakeley State Park in Baldwin County, Alabama. He is coauthor of Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812 and the author of Civil War Eufaula.

“Featuring selected homes, churches, businesses, government buildings, battlefields, cemeteries, and museums, Early Alabama: An Illustrated Guide to the Formative Years, 1798–1826 is an impressively detailed historical guide that is unreservedly recommended as a curriculum textbook, and a uniquely informative addition to community, college, and university library collections.”
—Midwest Book Review

“You’ll find no better pathfinder through the historical thickets of Alabama’s past than Mike Bunn. Curious readers and adventurous travelers alike will enjoy this authoritative and lively guide to our state’s remarkable origins.”
—Gregory A. Waselkov, author of Old Mobile Archaeology and A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813–1814
A concise illustrated guidebook for those wishing to explore and know more about the storied gateway that made possible Alabama’s development

Forged through the territory of the Creek Nation by the United States federal government, the Federal Road was developed as a communication artery linking the east coast of the United States with Louisiana. Its creation amplified already tense relationships between the government, settlers, and the Creek Nation, culminating in the devastating Creek War of 1813–1814, and thereafter it became the primary avenue of immigration for thousands of Alabama settlers.

Central to understanding Alabama’s territorial and early statehood years, the Federal Road was both a physical and symbolic thoroughfare that cut a swath of shattering change through the land and cultures it traversed. The road revolutionized Alabama’s expansion, altering the course of its development by playing a significant role in sparking a cataclysmic war, facilitating unprecedented American immigration, and enabling an associated radical transformation of the land itself.

The first half of The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide offers a narrative history that includes brief accounts of the construction of the road, the experiences of historic travelers, and descriptions of major changes to the road over time. The authors vividly reconstruct the course of the road in detail and make use of a wealth of well-chosen illustrations.

The second half of the volume is divided into three parts—Eastern, Central, and Southern—and serves as a modern traveler’s guide to the Federal Road. This section includes driving tours and maps, highlighting historical sites and surviving portions of the old road and how to visit them.

Kathryn H. Braund is Hollifield Professor of Southern History at Auburn University. She is author of Deerskins and Duffels: The Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685–1815, editor of Tohopeka: Rethinking the Creek War and the War of 1812, and coeditor of Fields of Vision: Essays on the Travels of William Bartram.

Gregory A. Waselkov is professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of South Alabama. He has written, edited, and contributed to many books on southern archaeology and history, including A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813–1814.

Raven M. Christopher is chief curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. She is coauthor with Gregory A. Waselkov of the Archaeological Survey of the Old Federal Road in Alabama, Final Report, prepared for the Alabama Department of Transportation.
The Story of Alabama in Fourteen Foods

Emily Blejwas

Alabama’s history and culture revealed through fourteen iconic foods, dishes, and beverages

The Story of Alabama in Fourteen Foods explores well-known Alabama food traditions to reveal salient histories of the state in a new way. In this book that is part history, part travelogue, and part cookbook, Emily Blejwas pays homage to fourteen emblematic foods, dishes, and beverages, one per chapter, as a lens for exploring the diverse cultures and traditions of the state.

Throughout Alabama’s history, food traditions have been fundamental to its customs, cultures, regions, social and political movements, and events. Each featured food is deeply rooted in Alabama identity and has a story with both local and national resonance. Blejwas focuses on lesser-known food stories from around the state, illuminating the lives of a diverse populace: Poarch Creeks, Creoles of color, wild turkey hunters, civil rights activists, Alabama club women, frontier squatters, Mardi Gras revelers, sharecroppers, and Vietnamese American shrimpers, among others. A number of Alabama figures noted for their special contributions to the state’s foodways, such as George Washington Carver and Georgia Gilmore, are profiled as well. Alabama’s rich food history also unfolds through accounts of community events and a food-based economy. Highlights include Sumter County barbecue clubs, Mobile’s banana docks, Appalachian Decoration Days, cane syrup making, peanut boils, and eggnog parties.

Drawing on historical research and interviews with home cooks, chefs, and community members cooking at local gatherings and for holidays, Blejwas details the myths, legends, and truths underlying Alabama’s beloved foodways. With nearly fifty color illustrations and fifteen recipes, The Story of Alabama in Fourteen Foods will allow all Alabamians to more fully understand their shared cultural heritage.

Emily Blejwas is author of the novel Once You Know This and director of the Gulf States Health Policy Center in Bayou La Batre, Alabama.
These Rugged Days
Alabama in the Civil War
John S. Sledge

An accessibly written and dramatic account of Alabama’s role in the Civil War

The Civil War has left indelible marks on Alabama’s land, culture, economy, and people. Despite its lasting influence, this wrenching story has been too long neglected by historians preoccupied by events elsewhere. In These Rugged Days: Alabama in the Civil War, John S. Sledge provides a long overdue and riveting narrative of Alabama’s wartime saga.

Focused on the conflict’s turning points within the state’s borders, this book charts residents’ experiences from secession’s heady early days to its tumultuous end, when 75,000 blue-coated soldiers were on the move statewide. Sledge details this eventful history using an impressive array of primary and secondary materials, including official records, diaries, newspapers, memoirs, correspondence, sketches, and photographs. He also highlights such colorful personalities as Nathan Bedford Forrest, the “Wizard of the Saddle”; John Pelham, the youthful Jacksonville artillerist who was shipped home in an iron casket with a glass faceplate; Gus Askew, a nine-year-old Barbour County slave who vividly recalled the day the Yankees marched in; and Augusta Jane Evans, the young novelist who was given a gold pen by a daring blockade runner.

Sledge offers a refreshing take on Alabama’s contributions to the Civil War that will intrigue anyone who is interested in learning more about the state’s war efforts. His narrative is a dramatic account that will be enjoyed by lay readers as well as students and scholars of Alabama and the Civil War. These Rugged Days is an enthralling tale of action, courage, pride, and tragedy, making clear the relevance of many of the Civil War’s decisive moments for the way Alabamians live today.

John S. Sledge is senior architectural historian for the Mobile Historic Development Commission and a member of the National Book Critics Circle. He is author of Cities of Silence: A Guide to Mobile’s Historic Cemeteries and The Mobile River. He and his wife, Lynn, live in Fairhope, Alabama.
Exploring Wild Alabama
A Guide to the State’s Publicly Accessible Natural Areas
Kenneth M. Wills and L. J. Davenport

The most comprehensive guide available to Alabama’s publicly accessible natural destinations

Exploring Wild Alabama is an exceptionally detailed guide to the most beautiful natural destinations in the state. From the rocky outcrops of the Appalachian plateaus to the sugar-white beaches of the Gulf Coast’s Orange Beach and Dauphin Island, Alabama offers a wealth of remarkable sites to explore by car or canoe, bicycle or motorcycle, or on foot.

Intrepid explorers Kenneth M. Wills and L. J. Davenport divide Alabama into eleven geographic regions that feature state parks and preserves, national monuments and forests, wildlife management areas, Nature Conservancy and Forever Wild properties, botanical gardens and arboreta, as well as falls, caverns, and rock cliffs. Exploring Wild Alabama provides detailed site entries to one hundred and fifty destinations. Each section is beautifully illustrated with color photographs and area maps.

Exploring Wild Alabama includes a large state map and numerous local topographic maps to help readers locate each site. Individual site entries include: written directions to each site and GPS coordinates; engaging notes about the ecology, landscape features, and local species of plants and animals of the sites; and international recreation symbols for hiking, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, and other fun outdoor activities.

Wills and Davenport guide travelers to Alabama jewels such as Sand Mountain’s Chitwood Barrens, which harbors the rare Green Pitcher Plant and other exotic botanical species; Blowing Springs Cave in Lauderdale County, named for the cool air and the clear spring flowing out of the cave opening; Jackson Prairies in the Lime Hills region; and Booker’s Mill in Conecuh County, offering diverse habitats and historic structures.

Long a favorite destination for outdoor sports enthusiasts, Alabama is fast becoming a major “ecotourism” destination, with thousands of travelers discovering the state’s unsung natural treasures. Exploring Wild Alabama will be used and trusted by anyone who loves the outdoors—birders, botanists, cave explorers, cyclists, hunters, fishermen, rock climbers, canoeists, teachers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Kenneth M. Wills is president of the Friends of Moss Rock Preserve and works currently for the Jefferson County Health Department. He has traveled the entire state as a natural resource planner and biologist for the Alabama Environmental Council.

L. J. Davenport is professor of biology at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and a past Carnegie Foundation Alabama Professor of the Year. He is author of Nature Journal and a forthcoming book on Alabama botanists.

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Revisits the inspiring and heroic stories of the Freedom Riders, through their own words

In May 1961, despite multiple Supreme Court rulings, segregation remained alive and well within the system of interstate travel. All across the American South, interstate buses as well as their travel facilities were divided racially. This blatant disregard for law and morality spurred the Congress of Racial Equality to send thirteen individuals—seven black, six white—on a harrowing bus trip throughout the South as a sign of protest.

These original riders were met with disapproval, arrests and violence along the way, but that did not stop the movement. That summer, more than four hundred Freedom Riders continued their journey—many of them concluding their ride at Mississippi’s notorious Parchman Farm, where they endured further abuses and indignities. As a result of the riders sacrifice, by November of 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission finally put an end to interstate commerce segregation, and in the process, elevated the riders to become a source of inspiration for other civil rights campaigns such as voter registration rights and school desegregation.

While much has been written on the Freedom Rides, far less has been published about the individual riders. Join award-winning author B. J. Hollars as he sets out on his own journey to meet them, retracing the historic route and learning the stories of as many surviving riders as he could.

The Road South: Personal Stories of the Freedom Riders offers an intimate look into the lives and legacies of the riders. Throughout the book these civil rights veterans’ poignant, personal stories offer timely insights into America’s racial past and hopeful future.

Weaving the past with the present, Hollars aims to demystify the legendary journey, while also confronting more modern concerns related to race in America. The Road South is part memoir and part research-based journalism. It transcends the traditional textbook version of this historical journey to highlight the fascinating stories of the many riders—both black and white—who risked their lives to move the country forward.

B. J. Hollars is associate professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is author of several books including Thirteen Loops: Race, Violence and the Last Lynching in America; Opening the Doors: The Desegregation of the University of Alabama and the Fight for Civil Rights in Tuscaloosa; Flock Together: A Love Affair With Extinct Birds; From the Mouths of Dogs: What Our Pets Teach Us about Life, Death, and Being Human, among others.
A lavishly illustrated history of this distinctive city’s origins as a settlement on the banks of the Black Warrior River to its development into a thriving nexus of higher education, sports, and culture

In both its subject and its approach, Tuscaloosa: 200 Years in the Making is an account unlike any other of a city unlike any other—stорied, inimitable, and thriving. G. Ward Hubbs has written a lively and enlightening bicentennial history of Tuscaloosa that is by turns enthralling, dramatic, disturbing, and uplifting. Far from a traditional chronicle listing one event after another, the narrative focuses instead on six key turning points that dramatically altered the fabric of the city over the past two centuries.

The selection of this frontier village as the state capital gave rise to a building boom, some extraordinary architecture, and the founding of The University of Alabama. The state’s secession in 1861 brought on a devastating war and the burning of the university by Union cavalry; decades of social adjustments followed, ultimately leading to legalized racial segregation. Meanwhile, town boosters set out to lure various industries, but with varying success.

The decision to adopt new inventions, ranging from electricity to telephones to automobiles, revolutionized the daily lives of Tuscaloosans in only a few short decades. Beginning with radio, and followed by the Second World War and television, the formerly isolated townpeople discovered an entirely different world that would culminate in Mercedes-Benz building its first overseas production plant nearby. At the same time, the world would watch as Tuscaloosa became the center of some pivotal moments in the civil rights movement—and great moments in college football as well.

An impressive amount of research is collected in this accessibly written history of the city and its evolution. Tuscaloosa is a versatile history that will be of interest to a general readership, for scholars to use as a starting point for further research, and for city and county school students to better understand their home locale.

A sweeping account of the history of the city of Selma from its founding to the present

In 1989, Alston Fitts published a brief history of the city of Selma, Alabama, from its founding through the aftermath of the civil rights movement. Selma: A Bicentennial History is a greatly revised and expanded version of Fitts's history of the city, replete with a wealth of new, never-before-published illustrations, which further develops a number of significant events, corrects critical errors, and, most importantly, incorporates many new stories and materials that document Selma's establishment, growth, and development.

Comprehensive, thoroughly researched, and nonpartisan, Fitts's pleasantly accessible history addresses every major issue, movement, and trend from the city's settlement in 1815 to the end of the twentieth century. Its commerce, institutions, governance, as well as its evolving racial, religious, and class composition are all treated with candor and depth. Selma's transformative role within the state and the nation is fully explored, and most notable is a nuanced and complex discussion of race relations from the rise of the civil rights era to modern times.

Historians, scholars, and Alabamians will find great use for this updated and fully developed exploration of Selma's rich, complex, and significant history.

Alston Fitts III is a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who earned a master's degree from Harvard University in 1964 and a PhD in English from the University of Chicago in 1974. A former English teacher, Fitts served for decades as director of information and principal fundraiser for the Edmundite Missions, a Catholic organization based in Selma.

“Selma: A Bicentennial History will undoubtedly serve as the starting reference point from which future scholarship regarding this city's past will commence. Fitts has produced a masterful work for which he and his fellow Selmians can be very proud.”

—Alabama Review

“There is a palpable even-handedness about this book. It could serve as a common frame of reference for all of Selma's citizens, black and white, and certainly for people in other places, including other parts of Alabama; it offers a font of useful information.”

—Frye Gaillard, author of Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America
Shot in Alabama
A History of Photography, 1839–1941, and a List of Photographers
Frances Osborn Robb

A sumptuously illustrated history of photography as practiced in the state from 1839 to 1941 offering a unique account of the birth and development of a significant documentary and artistic medium

Shot in Alabama by Frances Osborn Robb is a visual and textual narrative of Alabama’s photographic history from 1839 to 1941. It describes the phenomenon of photography as practiced in Alabama as a major cultural force, paying close attention to the particular contexts from which each image emerges and the fragments of microhistory that each image documents.

Presented chronologically—from the very first photograph ever taken in the state to the appearance of cameras as commonplace possessions in mid-twentieth-century households—Robb draws into sharp relief the eras of daguerreotypes, Civil War photography, photographic portraiture at the end of the nineteenth century, urban and rural photography in the early twentieth century, WPA photography during the Great Depression, postcards and tourist photography, and pre–World War II illustrated books and art photographs. Robb also examines a wide spectrum of vernacular photography: Alabama-made photographs of everyday people and places, the photographs that fill dresser drawers and shoeboxes, a vast array of unusual images against which Alabama’s more typical iconography can be measured.

She also chronicles the work of hundreds of photographers—black and white, amateur and professional, women and men—some little-known outside their communities, some of them the medium’s most important practitioners. “Who Shot Alabama?” is an accompanying appendix that includes 1,400 photographers by name, working dates, and location—a resource that will help countless individuals, families, and archives identify the specific Alabama photographers whose names appear on family photographs or those in institutional collections.

Shot in Alabama is an insightful document of photography as both a communicator and creator of social, cultural, economic, and visual history. It highlights the very personal worlds rendered by individual photographs as well as the larger panorama of Alabama history as seen through the photographs collectively. A landmark work of research, curation, and scholarship, it fills the void of published history on Alabama photography and is an invaluable resource for historians, archivists, librarians, collectors, hobbyists, and readers with an interest in Alabama history or historic photography. Shot in Alabama is a book that all Alabamians will want on their coffee tables.

Frances Osborn Robb has spent twenty-five years researching Alabama photographers and photographs while serving as a consultant on the state’s cultural history and historic photography for museums, archives, and libraries.
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