

In the past couple of weeks we have received several artifact gifts/loans of interest including among them a very old and rare coverlet, an historic bed (the latter two gifts from Glenn and Wally Terry) , copies of a number of Civil War era pictures of Decatur and the waterfront here, a local original booklet on railroading in North Alabama for the last 100 years (with a number of rare pictures), a limited edition reproduction of a Revolutionary War chair modeled on the one John Hancock was seated in as he signed the Declaration of Independence (from Jerry Shumake), several Civil War era bullets and an inoperable pre-Civil War weapon (rendered so for safety reasons) and other items (quite interesting!), some of which were discovered on the grounds of the OSB itself!

We also have expanded our research library to enhance our previous collection of rare books and other materials on restoration of old homes and gardens (about 200 such volumes which form the core of our Decatur Historic Preservation Commission library), as well as rare materials on the history of Alabama, Decatur, Morgan County, Somerville – and Alabama's oldest courthouse, antebellum homes, railroading and river travel in the region from the 1820s to present, the Decatur House (Stephen Decatur's home in Washington, DC), Haunted Alabama Battlefields (including Decatur and the OSB), old census records from 1850, history of the Tennessee River and the TVA dams, Native American history (Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek), the Trail of Tears (including one rare book written by a Cherokee from the Cherokee perspective) and several old and rare works on the Battles of Decatur/Franklin, TN/Nashville, TN from 1864 with emphasis on Generals Hood (CSA) and Thomas and Sherman (USA). We also have several hymnals from 1850 and before. Most of these historic books and other works (with the exception of some more modern preservation materials) are items that I personally have purchased and own in my personal collection and which I use in my own research here but I will be glad to make these available to careful researchers as well. We have no way to loan these items for use outside of the OSB, but one of our missions is to encourage historic and cultural knowledge of our community so I will be happy to make these available for use here inside our facility.

The Old State Bank not only looks good from the exterior but its interior is a living (and FREE!) museum of life in our area from 1833 to the present. It is the symbol of our city and shows both commercial life downstairs and personal residency and life upstairs. It is a wonderful research facility which over 7,100 persons toured in 2013. Additionally, we have several gardens on our property which (weather permitting!) will be looking good again in about six weeks including our delightful herb garden which should be ready for "free picking" again in a couple of months.

David Breland
Historical Resource & Event Coordinator