



Shelby County, Alabama  
TOURISM, HOSPITALITY  
AND SPORTING BUREAU

For more information about this themed itinerary or any of the exciting reasons to explore something new in Shelby County, please contact the Shelby County Tourism, Hospitality and Sporting Bureau at [tourism@shelbyal.com](mailto:tourism@shelbyal.com)

## Sign of the Times

### Alabaster, Benton-Oldham Cemetery

Located on the site of the original Benton homestead, this cemetery was founded July 12, 1842, with the burial of early Shelby County settler Jesse Benton (1798-1842). All who rest herein are members of the Benton family by birth, marriage, or close friendship.

Sign Location: In Alabaster, on Hwy 119 ¼ mile south and on the left from Thompson Intermediate School (Hwy 119 and Co Rd 264).

**-86:49:24.990 33:13:11.715**

Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Marker erected in 2006 by Friends and Descendants of Jesse Benton

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### Harpersville, Garden of Memories

The oldest known grave is that of Orpah Moore (1772-1823), consort to Rev. (Doctor) Lemuel Moore. This is the final resting place of American Revolutionary War Patriot William Jennings (1761-1840) and the professed burial site of the Last Creek Indian Chief of the Kewahatchie Tribe, Boz Shepard and his family (c. 1836-37). On January 24, 1964, a devastating tornado destroyed most of the oldest grave markers and killed ten citizens, including five members of the same Kelly family. Thousands of Shelby County's earliest settlers and area residents are buried here.

Sign Location: Harpersville, on Hwy 25, just over ½ mile south of the Intersection of Hwy 280 and Hwy 25 on the left. **-86:26:17.070 33:20:07.318**

Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Marker erected in 2006 by Friends of the Historic Harpersville Memory Gardens



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## Sign of the Times

### **Westover: Mount Tabor United Methodist Church Cemetery**

This cemetery was established August 20, 1857, by George G. and Purnelea Crawford. In an earnest desire to promote God's Kingdom on Earth, they conveyed this site to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and their successors.

Sign Location: Westover, from Hwy 280 go North on Co Rd 55 4/10 of a mile to Old Hwy 280. Turn left on Old Hwy 280 Go 1/10 mile and cemetery is on the left.

**-86:32:13.924 33:21:23.756**

Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Erected in 2005 by Friends and Families of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church

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### **Alabaster: Ozley-McLane-Nabors Cemetery**

Established October 15, 1868, with the burial of Elizabeth "Betsy" Nabors. Her loving husband, John, followed her in death only fifteen days later. They are buried side by side. Many local pioneer families chose to share this hallowed ground for their departed loved ones.

Sign Location: Alabaster, south on Hwy 31 through Saginaw turn left on Co Rd 26, go ¼ mile and turn right on Co Rd 339 and go 2/10 mile on the left.

**-86:46:43.330 33:12:24.219**

Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Erected by the Nabors Cemetery Association ... 2005



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### Chelsea: Old Quinn Burying Ground

Established June 2, 1849 by  
VETERAN OF WAR OF 1812, LOFTIN QUINN  
In Consideration of His Love for the Church  
He Conveyed the Burying Ground to the Trustees of Liberty Church  
And Their Successors

Sign Location: Old Quinn Burying Ground Chelsea South on Hwy 47 from Chelsea at the intersection of Hwy 47 and Whisenhunt Road. -86:37:13.519 33:19:42.269

Listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Erected by Friends of Old Quinn Burying Ground ... 2004

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### Shelby Springs Confederate Cemetery "Old Soldiers Grave Yard"

The Confederate Army established a soldier's home and hospital here (1863-1865) as a part of the CSA Camp Winn Training Site. Father Leray and the Sisters of Mercy staffed the hospital after fleeing Civil War destruction in Vicksburg, MS. They brought with them by train many wounded and sick Confederate soldiers. This existing public cemetery was expanded for those soldiers who died of battle wounds and illnesses.

Civilian burials continued until 1921.

Sign Location: From Calera, go East on Hwy 25 towards Columbiana, turn right on Co Rd 42 8/10 on the left. -86:40:54.320 33:07:46.296

Listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register  
Erected by the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. ... 2004



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### Wilsonville: CONFEDERATE FORTS

Near this site are the remains of three forts built in 1863 by Confederate troops under the command of Major W.T. Walthall, commander of the military post at Talladega. The forts, built for protection of the Alabama-Tennessee River Railroad trestles across the Coosa River and Yellow Leaf Creek, were manned during the last months of the war by reserve companies consisting of young boys and old men. Barbieri's Reserve Cavalry was Union troops, commanded by General James H. Wilson, captured the forts in March 1865.

Sign Location: Wilsonville on Hwy 25 at entrance to Gaston Steam Plant. Hwy 25 on East side of Wilsonville one mile Northeast Co Rd 61 and Hwy 25 intersection.

**-86:28:16.424 33:15:04.624**

Alabama Historical Association ... 1984

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### Pelham: SHELBYVILLE, A.T.

Near this site stood Shelbyville, A.T., first county seat of Shelby County was established February 7, 1818 by an act of the Alabama Territorial legislature. The first orphans' court was held April 4, 1818. Justices were: George Phillips, Patrick Hays, Bennet Ware, Needham Lee and James Walker.

Sign Location: Pelham; marker is in front of Pelham City Hall on Hwy 31 just North of the intersection of Hwy 52 and Hwy 31. There are two mistakes on this marker - should be Isaac Shelby, governor of Kentucky (not Tennessee) and should be The first orphans court was held the fourth Monday of April 1818 not April 4, 1818

**-86:48:39.709 33:17:14.719**

Alabama Historical Association ... 1982



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## Sign of the Times

### Columbiana: **SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE** 1854-1908

Original seat of government of Shelby County established 1818 at Shelbyville (Pelham). Moved to Columbiana 1826. First courthouse a small wooden building located on this site. Replaced in 1854 by two-story brick structure which forms central portion of this building. Later major alterations undertaken. Front and rear extensions added. Renovated structure designed in classical Jeffersonian style. Continued to serve as seat of county government until 1908 when new courthouse was completed two blocks north.

Sign Location: Columbiana on Hwy 47 one block south of the intersection of Hwy 70 (College St) and Hwy 47 -86:36:25.894 33:10:38.231

Alabama Historical Association ... 1982

### Helena: **CENTRAL IRON WORKS**

During the final years of the Civil War, Montgomery merchants, Hannon, Offutt & Company, built a rolling mill here along the banks of Buck Creek. Called the Central Iron Works, the plant's construction was superintended by Thomas S. Alvis, a Virginia ironmaster who had recently completed a rolling mill for the Confederate government at Selma. The Central Iron Works had just begun operation when destroyed by Union cavalry under General James H. Wilson on March 30, 1865. Abandoned for 7 years, R.W. Cobb, B.B. Lewis and Richard Fell bought the property at a tax sale, organized the Central Iron Works Company and began operation in 1873, primarily making Cobb's patented "Alabama Loop Cotton Tie."

Sign Location: Helena, Turn onto Lake Davidson Lane from Hwy 261 marker is 200' on the right of Lake Davidson Lane. -86:50:34.537 33:17:47.152

Erected by the City of Helena and  
The Alabama Historic Ironworks Commission ... 1982



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## Sign of the Times

### Montevallo: UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Originally named Alabama Girls' Industrial School and later Alabama College, this institution was founded October 12, 1896, by the Alabama Legislature. It was the state college for women until 1956, when it became coeducational. In 1969 the name was changed to the University of Montevallo. In Dec. 1978, the central portion of the campus was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The oldest buildings are King House (1823) and Reynolds Hall (1851).

Sign Location: University of Montevallo National Historic District Montevallo  
Campus of the University of Montevallo. -86:51:53.897 33:06:11.516

Alabama Historical Association ... 1982

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### Columbiana: SHELBY FURNACES Erected 1849 and 1863

Major source of pig iron for the Confederacy. Furnished iron to Selma arsenal for heavy cannon, naval armor plate. Furnaces destroyed in 1865 by Wilson's Cavalry raiders U.S.A. Rebuilt 1873, closed 1923.

Sign Location: Columbiana, across the street from "The Old Courthouse" next to Bernie's parking lot. Off Hwy 47 One Block South of Intersection Hwy 47 and Hwy 70 (College St). -86:36:24.862 33:10:38.337

Alabama Historical Association ... 1982

*Contributed by: BOBBY JOE SEALES*