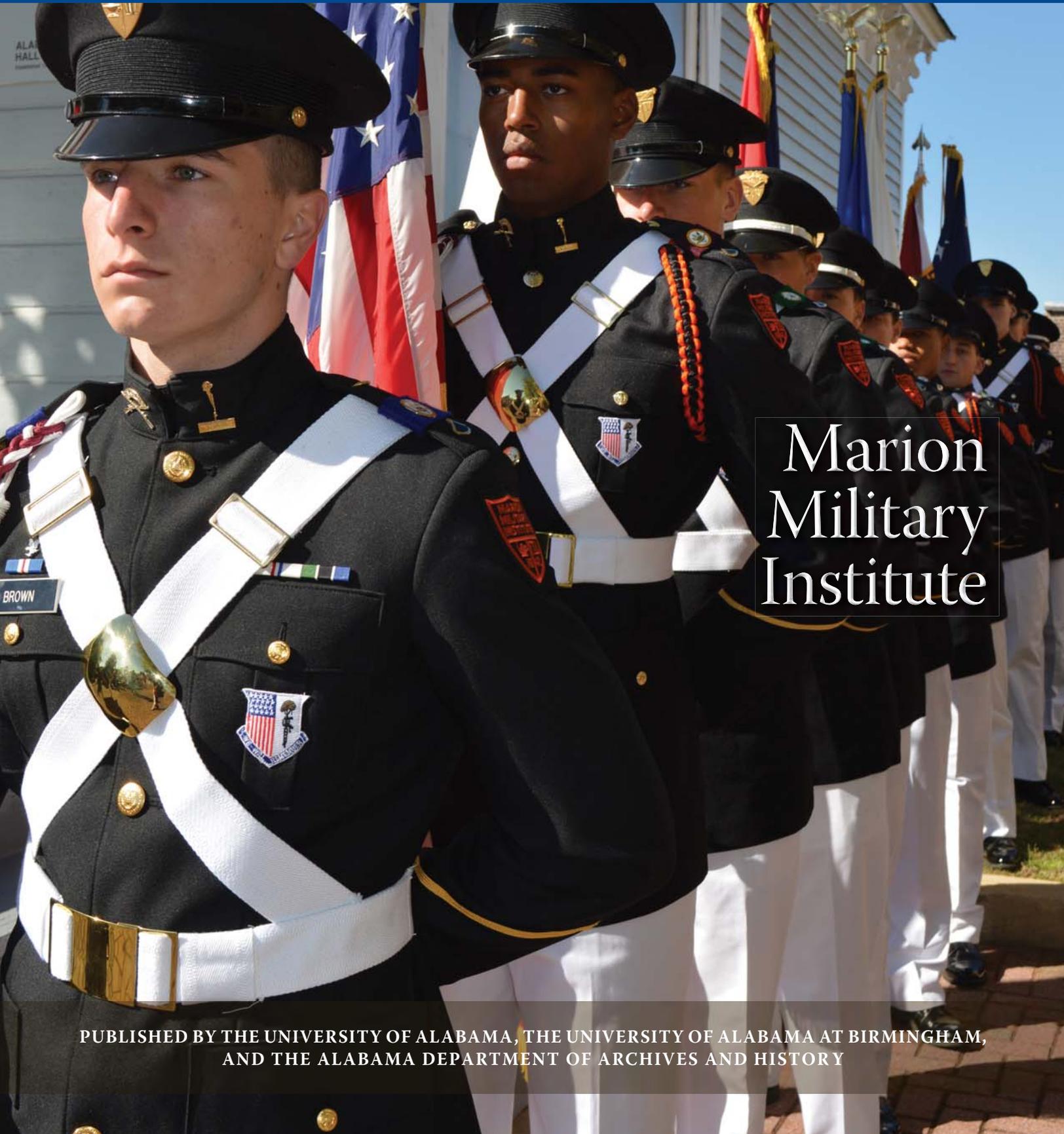


Alabama Heritage



Marion
Military
Institute

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM,
AND THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Alabama Heritage

Alabama Schools Sponsor

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ALABAMA

Alabama Heritage is grateful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield for giving the magazine to every school in the state.

Alabama Heritage wishes to thank the following for their generous support:

ALABAMA POWER
COMPANY

HANNA STEEL
CORPORATION

PHIFER INCORPORATED

PROTECTIVE LIFE
CORPORATION

VULCAN MATERIALS
COMPANY

YELLAWOOD

A corporate-level gift has been made in honor of

JOHN J. MCMAHON JR.

Alabama Heritage (ISSN 0887-493X) is a nonprofit educational quarterly published by the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Entire contents, copyright 2015 by the University of Alabama. All rights reserved.

Alabama Heritage disclaims responsibility for all statements of fact or opinion expressed in signed contributions to the magazine. The editors will give careful consideration to all unsolicited materials but cannot assume responsibility for their safety; return postage is requested. Writer's Guidelines are available at www.AlabamaHeritage.com.

Editor

Donna Cox Baker

Designer

Robin McDonald

Marketing & Advertising

Sara C. Martin

Associate Editor

Susan Reynolds

Digital Media Editor

Rebecca Todd Minder

Consulting Editor

Elizabeth Wade

Contributing Editors

L. J. Davenport, Stephen Goldfarb

Circulation

Cindy Sanford

Assistants/Interns

Sara Gibson, Taylor Hughes,
Rebecca Mast

Proofreaders

Jessica Lowther, Cassandra M. Nelson

Published by the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Alabama Department of Archives and History

The University of Alabama

Judy Bonner, *President*

Joe Benson, *Interim Provost*

Jennifer D. Greer, *Associate Provost*

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ray L. Watts, MD, *President*

Shirley Salloway Kahn, *Vice President, Development, Alumni and External Relations*

Linda C. Lucas, *Provost*

Alabama Department of Archives and History

George P. Evans, *Chairman, Board of Trustees*

Shirley Dowling McCrary, *Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees*

Steve Murray, *Director*

The Alabama Heritage Foundation Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Steve Williams, Birmingham • VICE PRESIDENT: John Scott, Montgomery

Edwin C. Bridges, Montgomery; Lella Bromberg, Birmingham; Paul W. Bryant Jr., Tuscaloosa; H. E. Cauthen Jr., Montgomery; Larry Foster, Birmingham; Gillian Goodrich, Birmingham; Charles Graffeo, Huntsville; Elmer B. Harris, Birmingham; Betsy Lowe, Huntsville; Gordon Martin, Birmingham; Gaylon McCollough, Gulf Shores; Sid McDonald, Union Grove; D. Joseph McInnes, Montgomery; Thomas McMillan, Brewton; Tennant S. McWilliams, Birmingham; Emmett Meyer, Tuscaloosa; Vaughan Morrisette, Mobile; Beverly Phifer, Tuscaloosa; Cathy Randall, Tuscaloosa; Barrett C. Shelton Jr., Decatur; Brenda Sonner-Fox, Montgomery; Neal Travis, Birmingham; Neal Wade, Montgomery; Suzanne Wolfe, Tuscaloosa.

Editorial and Advisory Board

Edwin C. Bridges, Emeritus, Alabama State Department of Archives and History; Wilton S. Dillon, Senior Scholar Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution; J. Wayne Flynt, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Auburn University; Robert Gamble, Retired Senior Architectural Historian, Alabama Historical Commission; Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton, Professor Emerita, Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham; William J. Koopman, Chairman Emeritus, Department of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Tennant S. McWilliams, Professor Emeritus, History Department, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Robert O. Mellown, Department of Art, University of Alabama; George C. Rable, Summersell Chair in Southern History, University of Alabama; Michael Thomason, Department of History, University of South Alabama.

Changing your address? Please notify *Alabama Heritage* as soon as possible; the post office does not forward bulk mail. Rates, postpaid in the United States: One year (four issues) \$18.95; two years (eight issues) \$32.95; single copies \$6.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. All correspondence regarding subscriptions, donations, or manuscripts should be directed to: *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama, Box 870342, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0342, (205) 348-7467. Toll-free (orders only): 877-925-2323. Visit us online at www.AlabamaHeritage.com.

Table of Contents



Cover: *The Marion Military Institute Color Guard at the 2013 Alabama Military Hall of Honor Induction ceremony. See article, page 38. (Marion Military Institute Foundation)*

DEPARTMENTS

4

Southern Architecture & Preservation

The Tabernacle:
Centerpiece of Alabama's
Early Camp Meetings

46

Becoming Alabama

Quarter by Quarter
Calendar of Events

52

Alabama Governors

William Wyatt Bibb
and Thomas Bibb

54

From the Archives

"Alabamians in the
Great War"

58

Alabama Women

The Crusade of "Mrs.
Moses": Ida Mathis and
the Cotton Crisis of 1914

62

Nature Journal

Sundown at Sauta Cave

66

Reading the Southern Past

Freedom Summer—1964

FEATURES

FLORENCE: DISCOVERING ALABAMA'S RENAISSANCE CITY

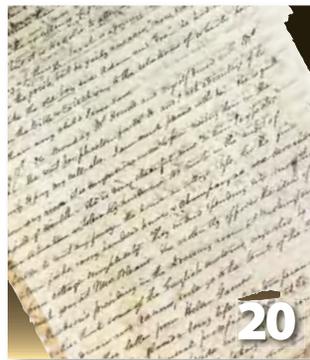
BY CAROLYN M. BARSKE

In 1818 the Cypress Land Company held the first auction for land in a new town on the banks of the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama.

Since then, Florence has grown into a thriving community with strong educational, agricultural, and industrial roots.



8



20

SARAH GAYLE AND VIOLENCE IN THE OLD SOUTHWEST

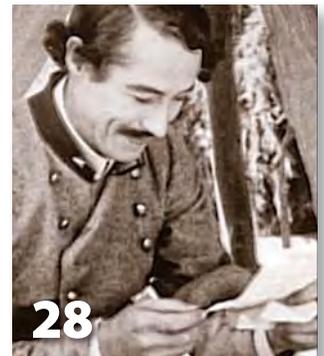
BY SARAH WOOLFOLK WIGGINS

An early nineteenth-century journal illuminates the dangers facing those who lived in Alabama during its earliest years as a state.

ALABAMA'S OWN HENRY B. WALTHALL

BY JOANNA JACOBS

For a brief moment toward the beginning of the motion picture industry, one of the biggest stars in the world was a slight, refined, serious-looking farmer's son from central Alabama.



28



38

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE: THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF ALABAMA

BY JOSEPH W. ("BILL") MATHEWS JR.

The history of Marion Military Institute was profoundly shaped by a single family—the Murfees.

From the Archives

"ALABAMIANS IN THE GREAT WAR"

**BY GRAHAM NEELEY AND
GEORGIA ANN CONNER**

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of Alabama Heritage inaugurates a new department on the collections of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Curator Graham Neeley sheds light on the process by which the archives came to acquire a particularly strong collection of World War I artifacts and records, many of which are currently on display in a new exhibit, "Alabamians in the Great War," in the archives' Museum of Alabama.

On February 3, 1919, Alabama became the first state to enact legislation calling for a memorial to commemorate its citizens who had served in World War I, also known as the Great War. The Alabama Memorial Commission was tasked with promoting the idea of erecting a memorial building and raising the funds to complete construction. The building was also to house the Department of Archives and History, which had been located in the State Capitol since its founding in 1901, and the Department of Education.

Many wartime souvenirs traveled to the US with returning servicemen, but few were as uncommon as this Prussian Cuirassier (cavalry) Reserve Officer's helmet. These ornate styles were replaced with the more protective Stahlhelm. (All photos Alabama Department of Archives and History)

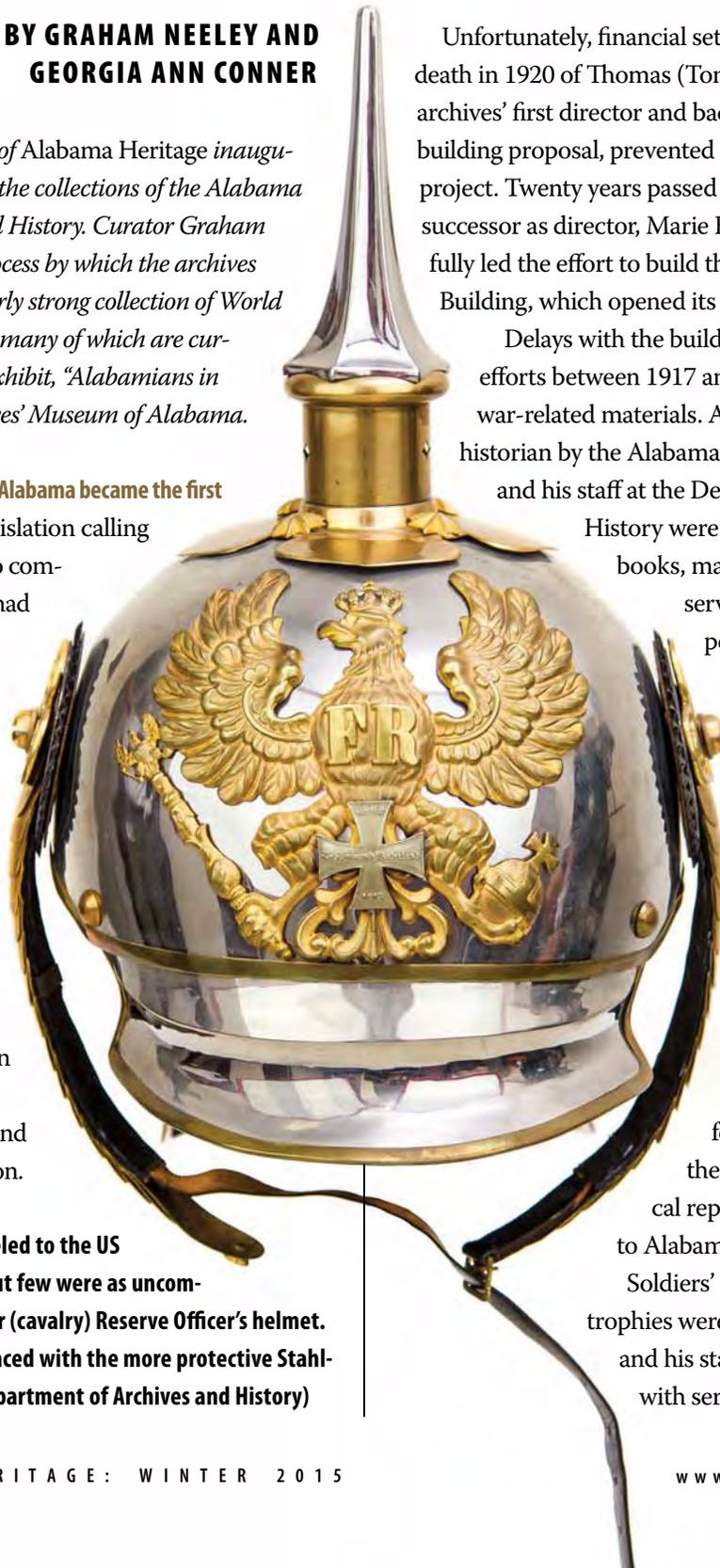
Unfortunately, financial setbacks and the untimely death in 1920 of Thomas (Tom) McAdory Owen, the archives' first director and backbone of the memorial building proposal, prevented a timely completion of the project. Twenty years passed before Tom's widow and successor as director, Marie Bankhead Owen, successfully led the effort to build the World War Memorial Building, which opened its doors in 1940.

Delays with the building did not hamper Tom's efforts between 1917 and his death to collect war-related materials. Appointed as the state war historian by the Alabama Council of Defense, Owen and his staff at the Department of Archives and

History were tasked with collecting books, manuscripts, official histories, service records, uniforms, and personal items that pertained to Alabama's involvement in the Great War.

Even prior to America's entry into the war Owen and his staff began collecting "periodicals, newspaper files, and pamphlets" for preservation in the state archives. When America entered the war, Owen became the obvious choice for state war historian, and the archives became the logical repository for all things related to Alabama's involvement.

Soldiers' personal items and war trophies were high on the list for Owen and his staff. Owen was in contact with servicemen throughout





German Model 1916 steel helmet, or Stahlhelm, variations (left to right): olive; camouflage, patch pattern; and dark green. The side lugs provide ventilation and an attachment for a front steel plate that added further protection.

1917–1918, but it was during the occupation period of 1919, when the 167th Infantry Regiment was stationed in Germany, that correspondence asking for artifacts and relics increased. Owen wrote Col. William P. Screws, commander of the regiment, asking him to encourage the men to donate items to the archives.

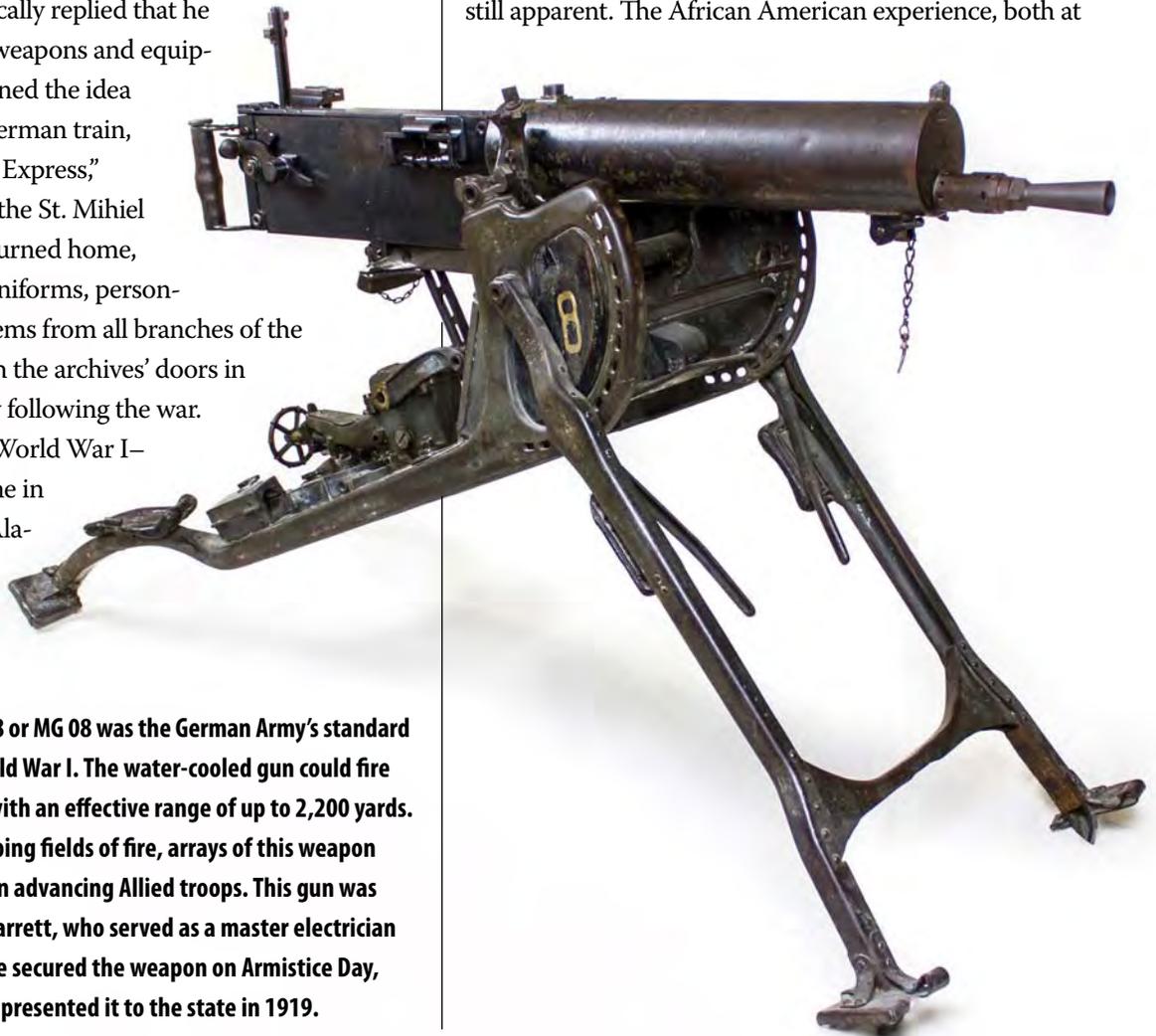
Screws enthusiastically replied that he would send German weapons and equipment. He also mentioned the idea of bringing home a German train, dubbed the “Alabama Express,” that was “captured in the St. Mihiel Drive.” As soldiers returned home, many donated their uniforms, personal items, and relics. Items from all branches of the military came through the archives’ doors in the years immediately following the war.

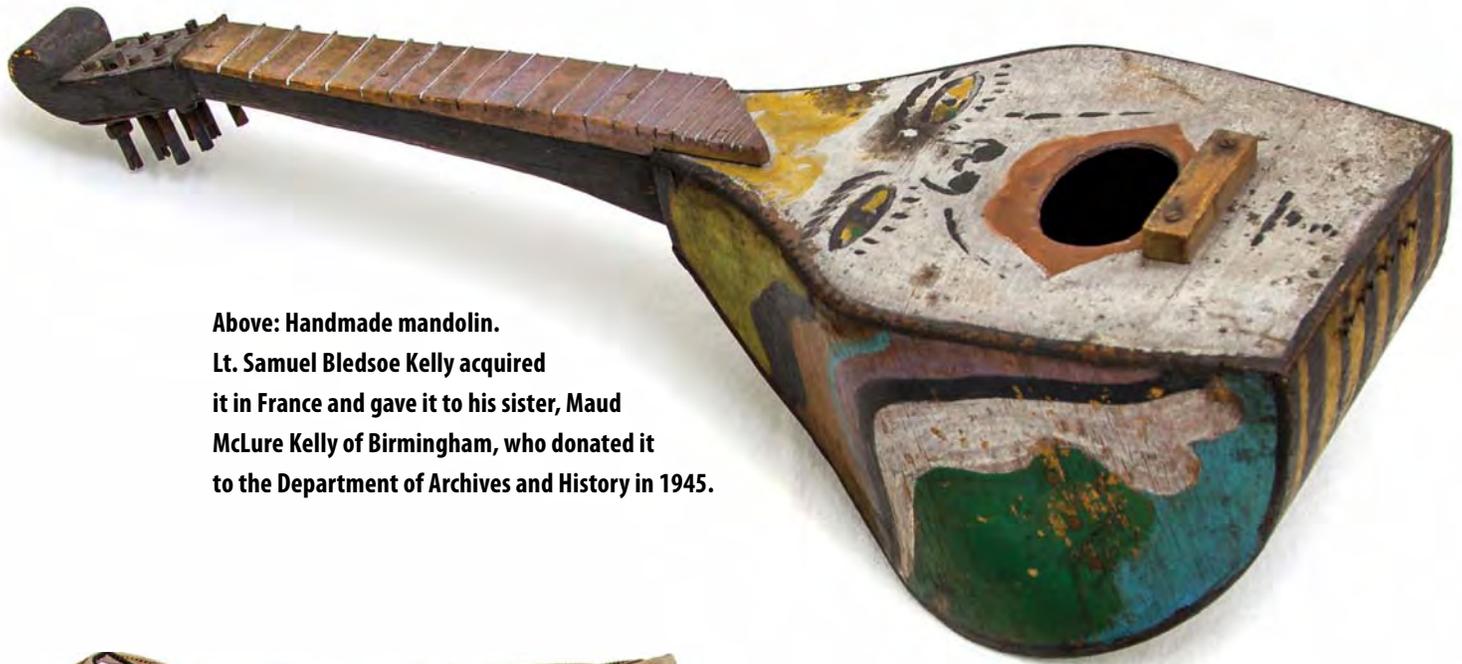
A second wave of World War I–related donations came in the 1940s, when the Alabama World War Memorial building opened its doors.

The Maschinengewehr 08 or MG 08 was the German Army’s standard machine gun during World War I. The water-cooled gun could fire 400 rounds per minute with an effective range of up to 2,200 yards. Positioned with overlapping fields of fire, arrays of this weapon had devastating effect on advancing Allied troops. This gun was donated by Eugene M. Barrett, who served as a master electrician in the US Signal Corps. He secured the weapon on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, and presented it to the state in 1919.

Veterans and immediate family donated items to the building honoring their service. The variety of items donated range from uniforms to captured German equipment. Since then a steady flow of artifacts has come to the archives.

Even though the World War I collection is one of the largest within the archives’ museum collections, gaps are still apparent. The African American experience, both at





Above: Handmade mandolin. Lt. Samuel Bledsoe Kelly acquired it in France and gave it to his sister, Maud McLure Kelly of Birmingham, who donated it to the Department of Archives and History in 1945.



Left: Life preserver worn by Lt. Gorman R. Jones the night his transport ship, the RMS *Moldavia*, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the English Channel in May 1918. Eleven years after the war, the life preserver was returned to him by the English couple who hosted him during his stay in Dover. A Colbert County native, Jones served on the Mexican border in 1916 with the Fourth Alabama Infantry. In France, he was a white officer in the 369th “Harlem Hellfighters” Infantry Regiment, an African American unit created in New York.

home and in France, is the most noticeable. A close second would be in the area of women’s participation, also on both the home and military fronts.

The “Alabamians in the Great War” exhibit is made possible in honor of Nimrod T. Frazier by the generous support of his colleagues at Enstar U.S.A. Inc. The exhibit is installed in the Alabama Treasures gallery, which has been restored to its 1940 appearance and is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Guice Slawson. The Museum of Alabama is open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Graham Neeley is a curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Neeley holds a BA in history from Huntingdon College. Georgia Ann Conner is the communications officer at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and is a native of Baldwin County, Alabama. She is a graduate of Furman University and holds a BA in history and a BA in studio art. Sponsorship for this department is provided by Lee Sentell and the Alabama Tourism Department.

Alabama Heritage

DIGITAL FEATURES

THIS FEATURE IS PART of a complete issue of *Alabama Heritage*. Buying individual features is a fast, convenient, and cost-effective solution for accessing content from *Alabama Heritage*. Features are available for purchase individually through our online store at www.AlabamaHeritage.com, and are delivered in a PDF format for easy use. This feature should not be reproduced in any format (print or digital), unless specifically permitted by *Alabama Heritage* in advance.

Most *Alabama Heritage* articles are available for purchase as a downloadable PDF. A few, however, are unavailable due to rights and permissions restrictions for the images used within the articles. A good faith effort has been made to seek permissions from those claiming rights to all images. Those without permission have been redacted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

ONCE YOU DISCOVER how useful features from *Alabama Heritage* are, you may find it more cost effective to consider a personal subscription. A subscription to *Alabama Heritage* is also a perfect gift. To subscribe to our quarterly magazine, or to give a gift subscription, log on to www.AlabamaHeritage.com, or call us toll free at (877) 925-2323.

CONNECT WITH US

STAY CONNECTED with *Alabama Heritage* through our many social media sites. Follow us for fresh, daily content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest. You can also learn more about the operations of our magazine through the eyes of our interns, and vicariously visit historic sites and attend conferences by reading our blogs. Log on to www.AlabamaHeritage.com