

**STATE OF ALABAMA, DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, BULLETIN NO.  
1: THE ESTABLISHMENT. ORGANIZATION  
ACTIVITIES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND  
HISTORY OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

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Alabama by Thomas M. Owen

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**THOMAS M. OWEN**

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STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of Archives and History  
THOMAS M. OWEN, Director  
BULLETIN No. 1

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THE  
ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION  
ACTIVITIES AND ASPIRATIONS <sup>479</sup>  
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### PREFATORY NOTE.

The Department of Archives and History, established by act of the Legislature approved Feb. 27, 1901, and organized March 2, 1901, has not only vindicated the hopes of patriotic Alabamians, but it has also excited very general attention on the part of students and others interested in the wise and proper solution of the problems of State supported historical work. The example set by Alabama has been followed in Mississippi by similar legislation, and by intelligent agitation in many other States. The successful administration of the Department and its almost phenomenal record in accumulating materials, has encouraged the belief that such an agency is the very best and most satisfactory way of meeting the obligation due by the State to its archives (public records) and history.

Owing to the general interest thus manifested, and in order to meet the many inquiries received, this Bulletin has been prepared. It contains an account of the establishment, growth, activities and aspirations of the Department, presented with considerable fullness and detail. It also contains lists of some of the more important accessions, and some expressions of commendation and congratulation received from historians and students.

Montgomery, August 1, 1904.

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Montgomery, August 1, 1904.

ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHING  
THE DEPARTMENT.

(General Laws of Alabama, 1900-01, pp. 126-131.)

No. 476.

AN ACT

S. 526.

TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY FOR  
THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TO PRESCRIBE ITS FUNCTIONS AND  
DUTIES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS MAINTENANCE.

DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED, OBJECTS AND PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Alabama,* That there is established for the State of Alabama a "Department of Archives and History," to be located in the State capitol in apartments to be set aside for its use by the Governor; and the objects and purposes of the said Department are the care and custody of official archives, the collection of materials bearing upon the history of the State, and of the territory included therein, from the earliest times, the completion and publication of the State's official records and other historical materials, the diffusion of knowledge in reference to the history and resources of the State, the encouragement of historical work and research, and the performance of such other acts and requirements as may be enjoined by law.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES.

SECTION 2. *Be it further enacted, (1)* That said Department shall be under the control of a board of nine trustees, one from each Congressional district, and the names of said trustees, with their particular terms of service, are as follows, viz: Peter J. Hamilton, for the First Congressional District, to serve two years; Jefferson M. Falkner, for the Second District, to serve two years; W. D. Jelks, for the Third District, to serve two years; J. H. Johnson, for the Fourth District, to serve four years; W. H. Blake, for the Fifth District, to serve four years; Henry B. Foster, for the Sixth District, to serve four years; Oliver D. Street, for the Seventh District, to serve six years;

William Richardson, for the Eighth District, to serve six years; and Samuel Will John, for the Ninth District, to serve six years, the beginning of the several terms of service for the purposes of this act to be January 1, 1901. (2) The said board shall have the power and authority to fill all vacancies occurring therein, whether by expiration of term of service, or by death or resignation, but the names of all newly elected members shall be communicated to the next ensuing regular session of the State Senate for confirmation, and in case it shall reject any of the said newly elected trustees, it shall proceed forthwith to fill the vacancy, or vacancies, by an election. (3) All trustees appointed to succeed the present members or their successors whose respective terms shall have fully expired shall serve for a term of six years, and appointees to fill vacancies by death or resignation, shall only serve out the unexpired terms of their predecessors. (4) The said board shall, within ten days after the approval of this act, proceed to organize said Department. It shall hold at the State capitol at least one regular meeting during the year, and as many special meetings as may be necessary, and at said meetings five members shall constitute a quorum. (5) The Governor of the State shall be ex-officio a member of the said board, and he shall as far as possible, lend every encouragement to the success and upbuilding thereof. (6) The Director hereinafter provided shall be the secretary of the board. (7) The trustees shall receive no compensation for their services other than the amounts of their traveling expenses actually paid out while in attendance on the meetings of the board or on the business of the Department. (8) The said board is empowered to adopt rules for its own government, and also for the government of the Department; to elect a Director, and to provide for the selection or appointment of other officials, or employes, as may be authorized; to provide for the publication of historical material pertaining to the State under the supervision of the Director; to have the direction and control of the marking of historic sites, or houses, and the exploration of prehistoric and Indian mounds and other remains existing in the State; to control and expend such appropriations as may be made for the maintenance of the Department; and to do and perform such other acts and things as may be necessary to carry out the true intent and purpose of this act.