

# CORNERSTONES

*Preserving the Cornerstones of Our Past*

[www.leedshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.leedshistoricalsociety.com)



## **LEEDS MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER MARINE PFC ALFORD L. McLAUGHLIN**

Alford L. McLaughlin is one of three Leeds natives to be awarded the Medal of Honor. McLaughlin was born in Leeds in 1927 and grew up here. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in 1945, and served in the Korean War in 1952–1953, receiving the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1952.

The medal was presented at the White House on October 27, 1953, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Machine Gunner of Company I, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, in action against



enemy aggressor forces in Korea on the night of 4-5 September 1952.” PFC McLaughlin also received a Purple Heart for wounds received in the action, the first of two he was awarded.

McLaughlin retired from the USMC as a Master Sergeant in 1972 and died in 1977. He is buried at Mount Hebron Cemetery.

PFC McLaughlin’s Medal of Honor is on display in the Military Room at the Bass House Museum. His

family graciously loaned it to the Leeds Historical Society (LHS) in 1998 and it has been on display ever since. Recently it was cleaned and framed out of respect for this piece of history.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER AMY SHORTER**

Amy Shorter joined the LHS Board of Directors in October 2021. She grew up in Leeds and attended Leeds Public Schools, going on to obtain a degree from Alabama State University with a major in public relations and minors in English and theater. Amy taught in the Headstart program in Leeds for 25 years and has been on staff at the Leeds Jane Culbreth Library for the past six years. She has one son, Brandon. Amy has multi-generational roots in the Leeds community and a deep commitment to the people and history of Leeds. Welcome Amy!





### CROSSROADS SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR THE BASS HOUSE MUSEUM

This past fall, Margaret Little and Amy Shorter hosted a large group of homeschool students from Crossroads Christian School for a tour of the Bass House Museum. The kids showed real interest and asked good questions. Some of the adults asked about returning at a later date for a more in-depth exploration of the Museum. We love having visitors come to the Bass House! To schedule a tour, please contact Margaret Little at **205-699-1010**.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO REP. DICKIE DRAKE

We are grateful to Rep. Dickie Drake for helping LHS to secure a grant to cover the cost of removing a huge branch that fell in the back yard of the Bass House during a storm in the fall of 2021. Luckily, the branch did not damage the Bass House but the cost of the cleanup was substantial. Thank you to Representative Drake for helping us to restore the yard to its former beauty!

### 2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEEDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Leeds Historical Society was held on October 10, 2021 (postponed from June due to the pandemic) at the Historic Leeds Depot. After society business, Robin McDonald, LHS vice president, gave a talk on his career in graphic design and his longstanding interest in historic preservation.



**LHS Board chair Frank Little received a well-deserved retirement card from successor Susan Carswell at the annual meeting.**

Robin has been the designer of *Alabama Heritage* magazine for over 30 years.

### LEEDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES, 2021

The LHS Christmas open houses were held on Sunday, December 12 at the Bass House and Saturday, December 18, at the Rowan House. Both houses looked beautiful decorated for the holidays! We are indebted to the Dirt Dabbers and the Cahaba Valley Garden Clubs for doing such a wonderful job every year getting Rowan Oaks ready to shine during the Christmas season. The tree there and inside the Bass House remained lit throughout the holidays and could be enjoyed by all driving by on Montevallo Road.

The 2022 Christmas Open House will be held at the Bass House Museum and Rowan Oaks on Sunday, December 11 from 2-5 p.m.



**LHS had a booth at the Creek Bank Festival for the first time last spring. Margaret and Frank Little and Scott Spruiell (above) spent the afternoon sharing information about LHS and answering questions. We'll be back this year, so come visit us at Creek Bank 2022 on Saturday, May 14th!**



## LEEDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

#### President

GINNY EDWARDS

#### Vice President

ROBIN McDONALD

#### Secretary

DEBBIE BENNETT

#### Treasurer

MARGARET LITTLE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Carswell, *Chair*

Clyde Adams

Joe Becker

Bailey Carswell

Maura Davies

Patsy Dawson

Frank Little

Randy Ray

Amy Shorter

### LEEDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENT RENTALS

**LHS has two historic properties, Rowan Oaks Historic Home, and Leeds Historic Depot, available for special events such as weddings, receptions, parties, teas, and reunions.**

**For rental information on both properties contact Randi Funderburg at 205-249-6037 or [randif629@gmail.com](mailto:randif629@gmail.com) Visit our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/RowanOaksHouse/](http://www.facebook.com/RowanOaksHouse/)**