

## **Press Release:**

### **For Immediate Release**

CONTACT: **Candi Duncan 334-412-8550**

Email: [info@selmapilgrimage.com](mailto:info@selmapilgrimage.com)

Website: [www.selmapilgrimage.com](http://www.selmapilgrimage.com)

Facebook: **Selma's Historic Pilgrimage**

## **43<sup>rd</sup> Selma Pilgrimage Set for March 16-17, 2018**

**SELMA, AL:** The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Historic Selma Pilgrimage, presented by the Selma-Dallas County Historical Preservation Society and the City of Selma, March 16-17, 2018, will showcase exquisite home and building architecture, fabulous art, an in-depth investigation of Selma's pivotal role in the American Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement combined with Southern hospitality beyond compare. Pilgrimage patrons will delight in the magnificent visuals during the weekend events.

**SPRING PILGRIMAGE IN SELMA.** The very words conjure up images of flowering beauty and historic homes dating back to the early 1800's. We invite you to come and experience history from the Civil War to Civil Rights as you tour private homes, museums, gardens and much more. You'll be enchanted with Selma's special blend of Southern graces and historic places and the largest historic district in Alabama.

Tourists from throughout the state, and the world at large, are fascinated with the diverse history and architecture found in Selma, and you will be too. Our Pilgrimage encompasses antebellum houses and industry, Victorian cottages, museums, and a semi-modern mansion, with accompanying stories guaranteed to enthrall visiting pilgrims. Selma was burned in 1865 by Wilson's Raiders and our surviving antebellum homes are cherished and waiting to be admired and shared during Pilgrimage.

Your 2017 pilgrimage will begin at the Vaughan-Smitherman Museum which serves as ticket headquarters for this event. Having been a girl's school, a county courthouse, a confederate hospital, and a renowned hospital during the turn of the century, the Smitherman Building tour is a "must" and most enlightening. Its unique collections are often called a microcosm of Selma history and give visitors insight to Selma's unique historic development. The Friends of the Vaughan will be selling box lunches from 11 to 1 both days that may be carried out or eaten on the museums' beautiful grounds.

Other museums on tour include Sturdivant Hall, an antebellum house museum furnished with lovely antiques true to the period, and The Old Depot Museum, an interpretive history museum which houses an impressive collection of artifacts and memorabilia depicting life in Selma and

Dallas County from prehistoric Indian times through the Civil War to Selma's part in the Civil Rights movement. The Museum is being opened up to show the layout of the building during its days as the L & N Depot, when it was named one of four of Alabama's historic train depots. To further entice visitors to the Museum, three of Selma's authors will be available to describe, sell, and autograph copies of their books on Selma's history. And don't forget to tour the Historic Society's outdoor museum, Heritage Village, which showcases a doctor's office, a lawyer's office, a pigeon cote and a servant's house; all moved from their original sites to their present location and restored for posterity.

Private homes are on tour in the morning from 9:00am 'til 1:00 pm and a completely different tour of homes open in the afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00pm both Friday and Saturday. Morning houses include both antebellum and Victorian houses while afternoon houses are all antebellum, beginning with the Platt-Lewis-Linden House in downtown Selma. Kenan's Mill, our antebellum industry, will be open in the afternoon with wandering troubadour, Paul Garner, singing and playing his guitar. Cornmeal will be available for purchase in authentic Kenan's Mill bags.

The current descendants of the original owners and builders of Kenan's Mill are also opening the old Kenan Place, an antebellum home with an interesting story of the Civil War. Kenan's Mill and the Kenan House are on the way to the antebellum Hudson home and the antebellum Methodist Church in Summerfield, which will finish a thorough experience of the antebellum South.

Friday night's house is truly a treat for pilgrims this year. The Hohenberg-Jones-Hobbs House will be open to pilgrims with wine, punch and snacks available at the end of the tour. This mansion, built in the 1930's, has been fully restored and modernized to accommodate luxurious modern living. The older guest house will also be open for tours.

So...Come join us on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for what we think will be the best pilgrimage ever in Selma.

While several venues are free, admission is charged for most homes and museums. Individual ticket prices range from \$5-\$20 and a complete package ticket for both days is available for \$50. Visit [selmapilgrimage.com](http://selmapilgrimage.com) where you can download a brochure and check special offers. Updates are posted on Facebook at "Selma's Historic Pilgrimage." You may also email [info@selmapilgrimage.com](mailto:info@selmapilgrimage.com) or call 334-412-8550 or 800-45-SELMA (800-457-3562).

Sponsored by the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society, Pilgrimage began in 1976 as a way to share the city's variety of architectural styles and rich history. Selma's historic district features more than 1200 structures.