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CONTACT: Shawn Wright
205-223-4415 | shawn@shawnwright.net
shadescahabahistory.com

New book celebrates the 100-year history of Shades Cahaba School

HOMEWOOD, AL (September 2020) — Local author and graphic designer Shawn Wright, has released the book *Shades Cahaba: The First 100 Years* to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Shades Cahaba Elementary School in Homewood, Alabama.

Originally opened as a high school in rural southern Jefferson County, Alabama, Shades Cahaba grew as the community grew around it. In 1949 the high school students left for the newly built Shades Valley High School, and Shades Cahaba continued to educate elementary students.

“My brother and I both attended Shades Cahaba Elementary School, and I had many questions about its history even back then. Once my children started to attend, those questions came up again, and this time I decided to find out the answers,” said Wright. “The centennial was fast approaching, so I created the Shades Cahaba Oral History Project to reach out to alumni, teachers, and others and to learn the history of Shades Cahaba.”

The book grew out of the 23 podcast episodes and blog posts that are a part of the Shades Cahaba Oral History Project.

“My podcast guests helped me uncover the rich history of the school. We covered subjects such as how the school was started, who the principals were, the coaches, athletics, and student and faculty stories. We even talked about the beginnings of Shades Valley High School and Homewood High School and how the school successfully integrated in the 1960s. All of this and more is covered in the book,” said Wright.

The book is available on Amazon.com as paperback and Kindle versions. It is also available digitally on Apple books. “We hope to have copies available for purchase in Homewood stores soon,” said Wright.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shawn Wright is a graphic designer, podcaster, and author of the book *Shades Cahaba: The First 100 Years*. His podcast, the Shades Cahaba Oral History Project, was the basis for his book, which was published to coincide with the 100th Anniversary in September 2020. He lives in Homewood, Alabama, with his wife and two children. For more information on Shawn, visit ShawnWright.net. You can contact Shawn at 205-223-4415 or shawn@shawnwright.net.

DOWNLOADS

You can download high-resolution images of Shawn Wright, the book cover, and mockups of the book at <https://shadescahabahistory.com/press>.

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