

Newsletter

June 2019

What you think ...

Thank you. Thank you to the 114 members who responded to our “Brand Perception Survey” and let us know what you all think of the Society and its work.

Our Trustee Joe Limbaugh has summarized your responses within the graphs and figures that follow, which include the information for the 104 members whose surveys arrived by the deadline. Joe, who is eager to contribute to his new hometown, heads up the Society’s newly formed “Strategic Planning Initiative.” Those members who returned their surveys are “readers,” and they are not as old as Joe imagined, there being what he describes as “a youthful tail” in the member demographic. Everyone who has seen the surveys is amazed at the great ideas shared with us. Several members even offered to volunteer their time to implement their suggestions. The officers: Wayne Hester, President; Pat Camp, Julius Linn, Rick Sprague, Katie Tipton, Vice Presidents; Allison Boone, Treasurer; Carol Slaughter, Secretary; and Marjorie White, Chairman will be meeting this summer with Joe to further assess your comments and to ponder future directions for the Society. We look forward to touching base again as we proceed in our study and reporting back to you with our vision for 2020.

Society Calendar

Birmingham Foodways Walks and Talks
Second Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Grandmother’s Garden at Sloss Quarters:

JULY 13

Italian Culinary Heritage
Led by Mary Marconi McLaughlin

AUGUST 10

Greek Culinary Heritage *Led by Marjorie White*

SEPTEMBER 14

American Heritage *Led by Antonia Viteri*

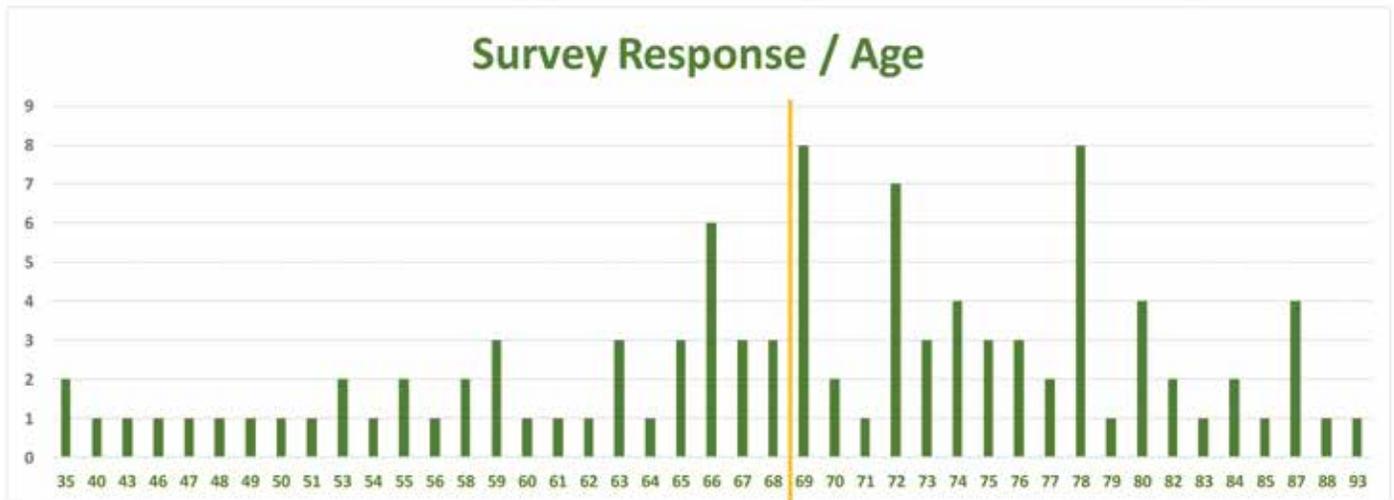
OCTOBER 12

German Culinary Heritage *Led by Antonia Viteri*

OCTOBER 13, 3-5 P.M.

Publication Celebration • Exhibition of Watercolors
Pretty Posies-Powerful Healing
Written by Antonia Viteri
Illustrated by Sumter Coleman, Gail Cosby,
Ellen Erdreich, Louise McPhillips, Jane Reed Ross

What is your age?

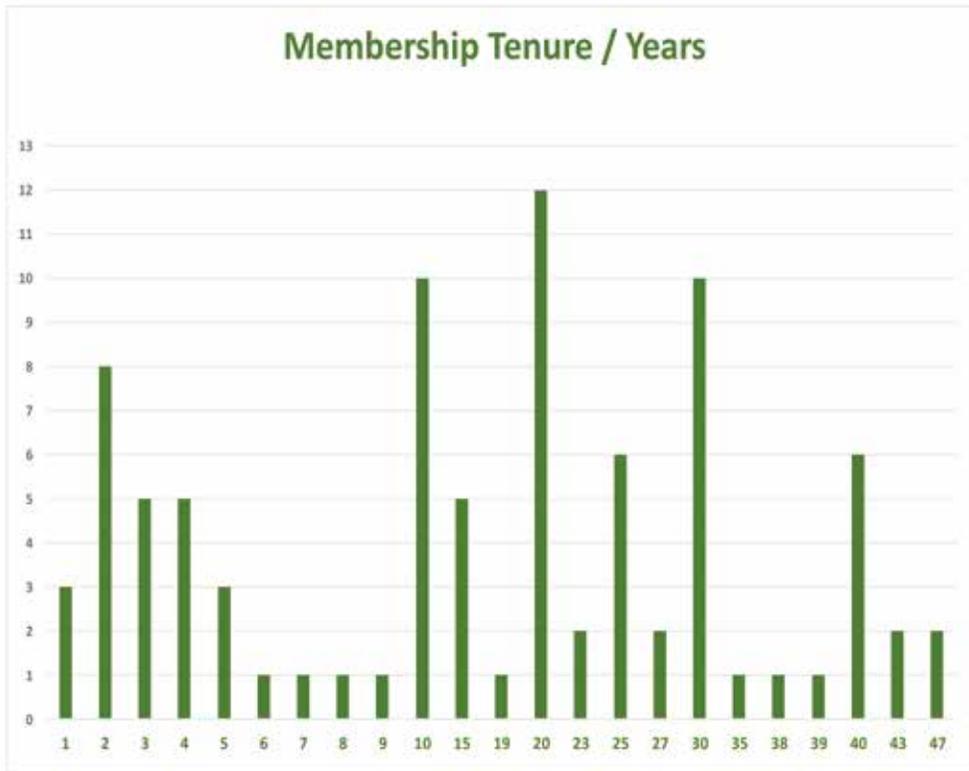


- 104 Surveys Received
- ~30% of Members
- 101 Respondents Included Age

Average Age

68.67

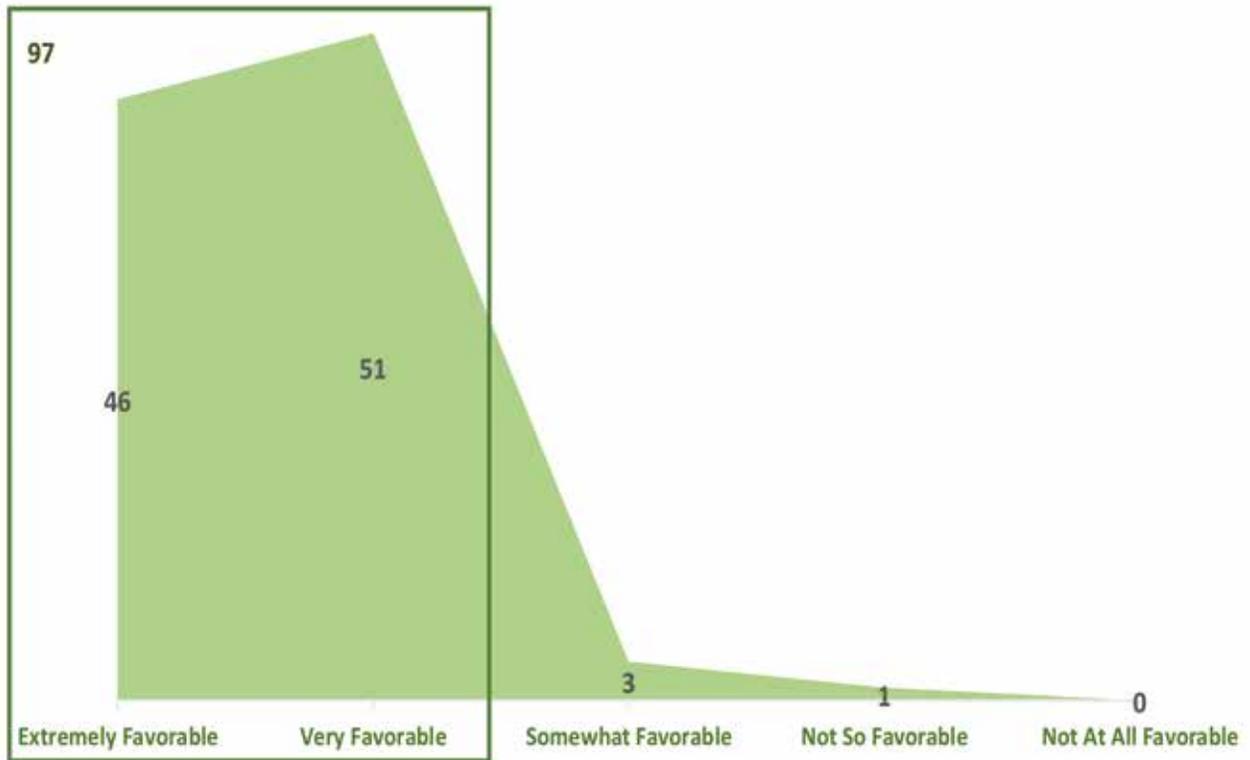
How long have you been a member?



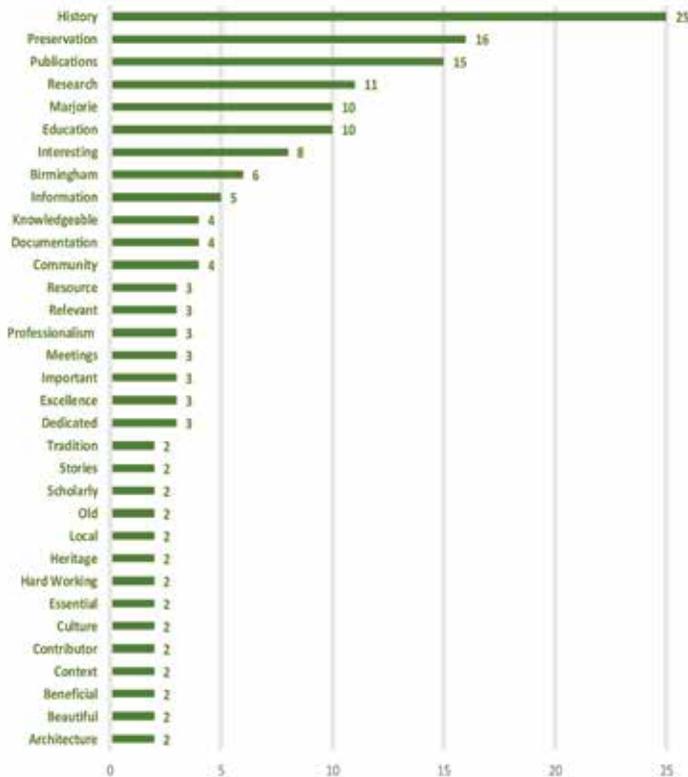
Which have you done in the past year?



How would you describe your overall opinion of BHS?



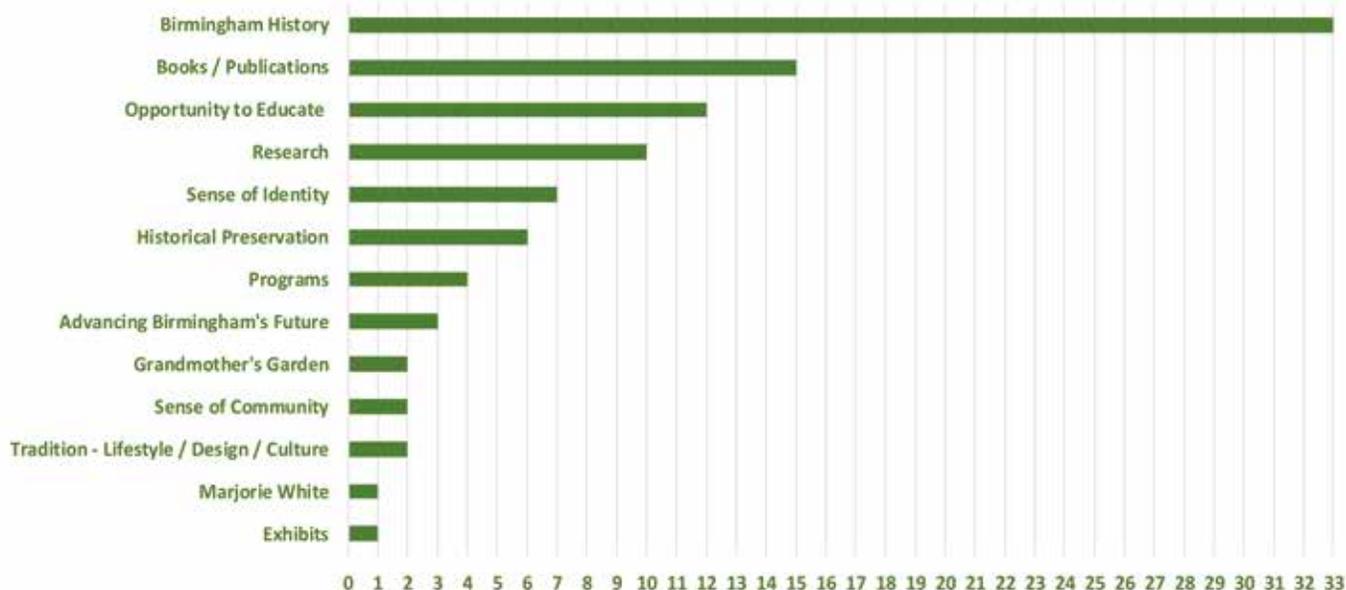
First three words that come to mind



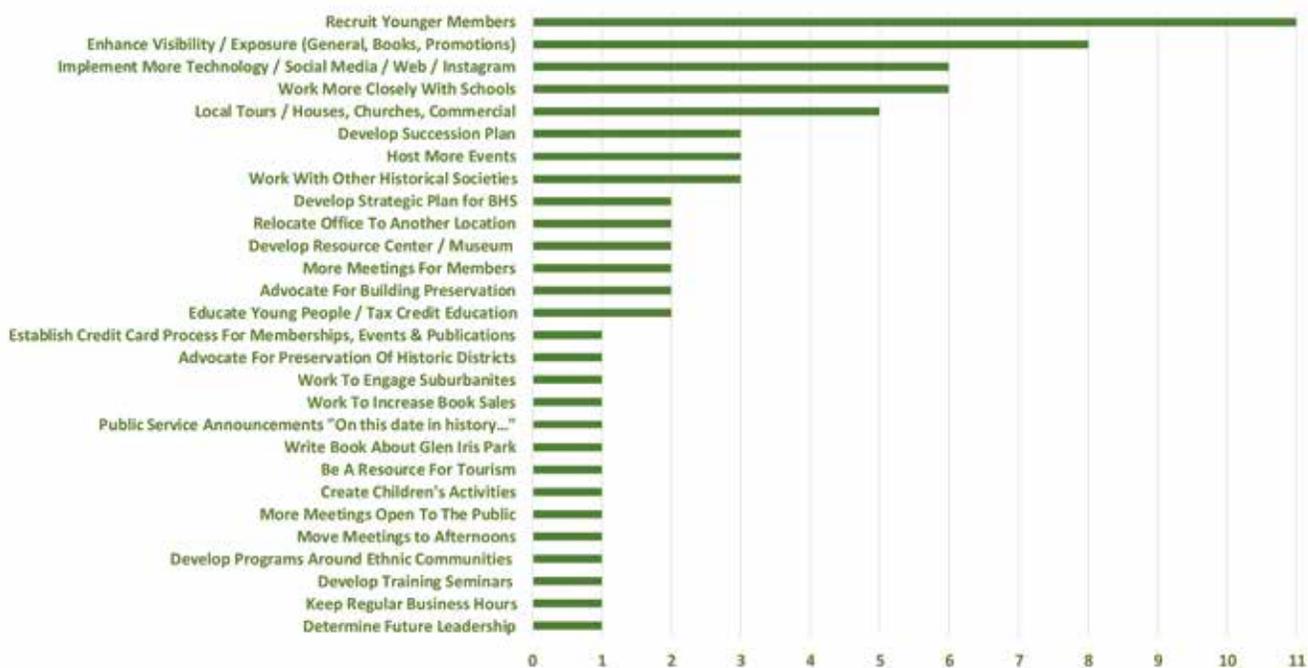
Single Reference

Academic	Memories
Accurate	Mountain Brook
Admiration	Needed
Alabama	Nostalgic
Archivist	Outreach
Artifacts	Particular
Competent	Performs
Conservation	Perseverance
Creative	Potential
Desirable	Productive
Embedded	Proud
Energetic	Quality
Engaging	Record-keeper
Established	Regard
Exciting	Remarkable
Exhibits	Scholarships
Fabulous	Service
Facts	Shared Interests
Fascinating	Significant
Fellowship	Sloss/Garden
Fun	Solid
Function	Sparse
Good Writing	Stable
Great	Staid
Ineffective	Stimulating
Integrity	Superior
Invaluable	Thankful
John Henley	Thorough
Legacy	Thoughtful
Long-lasting	Timeless
	Valuable
	Volunteer

If BHS went away tomorrow, what would be missing from the community?



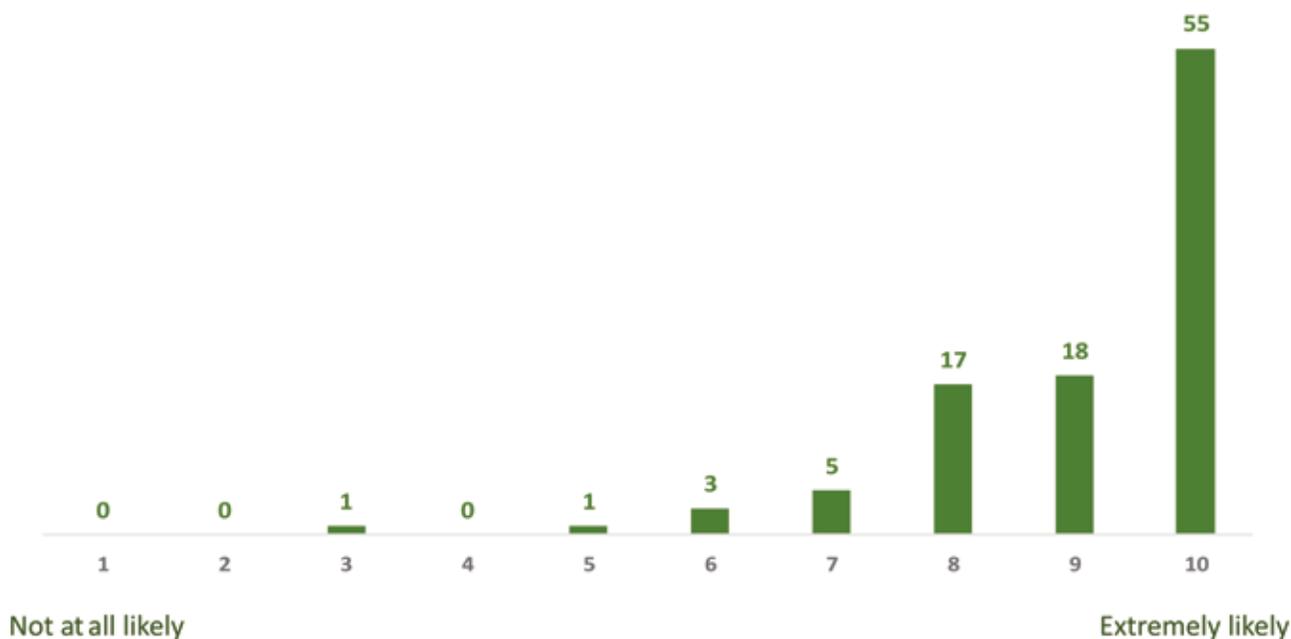
What is the one thing that BHS should **START** doing?



What is the one thing that BHS should **STOP** doing?

- Stop giving away books/use funds for outreach, tours, seminars.
- Try not to make the application of the lessons of history appear as right, unfair, even somehow punitive.
- Stressing about Sloss Furnaces challenges.
- Find a better place to have our annual meetings than that barn at the Gardens. I love the Gardens, but the room is so cold and dull.
- Old folks' social.
- Blocking the view of the golf course from Overbrook Road bridge to Cherokee with holly trees. Have them pruned no higher than the bridge. (BHS has nothing to do with holly trees.)
- Don't be so sophisticated.
- Would not recommend to stop anything, but rather to continue moving forward with its current mission.
- Nothing (15 responses)

How likely is it that you would recommend BHS membership?



Do you have some additional thoughts to share?

- Relabel the seams of iron ore in the Red Mountain cut on Highway 31.
- You Tube and video/DVDs to accompany books, etc.
- Invite other categories besides cakes to the annual contest of family recipes, savory rather than sweet.
- Basically the problem is that the organization is one person. Without Marjorie most feel it would go away.
- The idea of a book sale is most appropriate.
- Junior members for BHS is a good idea.
- There badly needs to be an update of the downtown architectural guide. Just as the County Historical Commission needs to have a new addition of the site book.
- Have you thought of doing book projects on topics of wider appeal to a larger audience? BHS Rock and Roll history, or our most infamous murders, or the Red Light District since Lou Wooster, or the culinary story of Birmingham?
- I appreciate prompts – Like, “Invite a Friend” or “Extra Tickets.”
- I love leading field trips at BBG and would enjoy similiar outreach at Grandmother’s Garden. Would enjoy participating in design of a standards-based curriculum.
- Working with neighborhood associations to create neighborhood histories might be useful.
- How can we organize a strong group of young leaders to protect the historic integrity of our city? Marjorie has done the work of an army.
- I wish I had more time to attend meetings!
- Weather history of Birmingham disasters (Tornados, fires, etc.) would be good topics for publications.
- Publications and research are always impeccable. Books for members are always interesting.
- Interested in religion/churches, civil rights, education, business/work, food, immigrants, all good book topics also the environment, although recent books have touched on that already.
- Create a youth group – college students as History Explorers or History Ambassadors.
- App guided neighborhood driving tours.
- Quarterly email digest of architectural sites/elements.
- Walking tour of downtown. – “The return of...”
- History of communities like you have done with Five Points South, Smithfield, Pratt City.
- I appreciate the contact Marjorie maintains with me. I feel a part of BHS even though I am 500 miles away.
- Link to Arlington.
- Newsletter could have list of available digital information through BHS – see list on page 1 of the survey.
- Is it time to do a Birmingham “Then and Now” book? Perhaps including building interiors, like all the lofts, and the Peanut Depot, which is saved as much the same.
- Have not been active in the recent past but pleased with the continual efforts!
- Work with Vulcan or another organization to establish History Museum, perhaps on the model of the Atlanta History Center.
- Consider being part of the effort to bring Jefferson County’s memorial slab of persons lynched to Linn Park. It is our history too.
- Accept credit cards for my donations/dues?
- Wish I were younger and could contribute to the work of the Society.
- Would be pleased to organize and to lead a revival of the church tours.

Do you have some additional thoughts to share? (cont.)

- I have not been involved long enough to know what has already been done.
- The Shades Creek book is great. I had good intentions about calling to tell you how good it is.
- The programs – all I've attended are excellent. The journals programs speakers at meetings have all been excellent.
- I look forward to learning more about BHS in time and then will have a basis for the opinions you seek.
- Students quite often do PowerPoints on local history. Maybe a program of several short PowerPoints and sponsor an area history contest.
- Loved what you did for years with downtown tours.
- I feel strongly that the society should think about combining with or working with the Vulcan Historical collection – both are looking at our past.
- I very much enjoy the publications.
- An opportunity exists to further develop by utilizing digital technology. In addition, the next generation needs to be identified and nurtured.
- Photographs/history/documentation of houses in Glen Iris Park.
- Have the next heritage lunch at the old Woodward Country Club. One of the two oldest clubs in Birmingham but I doubt 5% of our members have ever been there.
- How about a book about the evolution of transportation in this community. How about collaboration with Community Food Bank & Extension to teach home gardening at community urban gardens?
- A program on the villages of Mountain Brook.
- An annual program on buildings and houses.
- Have more joint meetings and programs with other historical groups in the area.
- Work with Birmingham Holocaust Ed. Society.
- House and neighborhood history tours?
- Community events on a bigger scale that might attract new and younger residents.
- Maybe help local historic districts organize house tours.
- Engage more younger people: downtown talks, walks, tours of historic buildings with knowledgeable experts.
- It seems that most of my awareness is from '87 forward. I found the pre-Civil War activity revealed in the Ross Bridge Culvert newsletter fascinating. Is there additional pre-1871 material that could be explored, gathered and published?
- Did not know there was a website; run a list of BHS on-line resources often in the newsletter.

See inside for your
"What You Think"
survey responses!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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