



BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

December 2013

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2013

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013

- Commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement by publishing *Minutes—Central Committee—Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Southern Christian Leadership Conference* by Mrs. Ruth Barefield-Pendleton, secretary to the committee, and feted the author at a reception in the Birmingham Public Library Board Room.
- Organized an exhibition of 41 Civil Rights Photographs of the *Birmingham News* that showed at the Central Library throughout the 50th anniversary year.
- Conducted the Annual Meeting and A Victorian Valentine Tea at the 1898 Highland Avenue Hassinger House—the residence of Ira and Sheila Chaffin—which operates as the Hassinger-Daniel Mansion Bed and Breakfast and Ira Chaffin’s carving studio.
- Hosted the annual Heritage Society Gathering at the meticulously restored William Hassinger Residence, the “Castle” on Carlisle Road.
- Photographed Mountain Brook land use with a large-format camera and from a helicopter, employing aerial specialist John Wathen of Tuscaloosa and Jet Lowe of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- Completed documentation of the 1926-1929 Jemison & Company development of Mountain Brook for the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. and the Library of Congress.
- Prepared *Mountain Brook—A Historic American Landscape* for publication.
- Continued to grow Grandmother’s Garden using heirloom plants and practices. Conducted the annual Spring Equinox Plowing Party, visits for garden clubs, rain-barrel building and plein-air painting sessions. The demonstration home garden with kitchen and medicinal herbs, flowers, and vegetables is open to the public year round.
- Researched possibilities to improve way finding and interpretive signage at our garden.
- Undertook major exterior renovations to Duncan House, the Birmingham Historical Society’s 1905 frame property at Sloss Quarters, including a new roof and heat and air

system, shoring up the front gable, and repairing, scraping, caulking, and painting windows, porches, and siding.

- Received donations of appropriate historic furnishings.
- Explored possibilities to renovate the adjoining shotgun house and develop historic interpretation for Sloss Quarters
- Grew the Society’s Endowment.

EVENTS IN 2014

- **Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.** The **Annual Meeting with book signing, photo exhibit, and program.** Talk by Birgit Kibelka and Marjorie White, “*What Makes Mountain Brook Mountain Brook*” and celebration of the publication of the BHS 2014 annual publication: *Mountain Brook—A Historic American Landscape*. Auditorium, Birmingham Botanical Garden.
- March TBA, The Spring Equinox **Plowing Party**, Grandmother’s Garden, Sloss.
- **Sunday, April 6, Noon, Heritage Society Luncheon**, Mountain Brook Club (*Heritage Society Membership required*)
- **Sunday, April 13, 2-4 p.m.**, Book signing and exhibit opening of “Perfectly Planned: Mountain Brook Roads and Scenic Views,” Community Meeting Room, Emmet O’Neal Library.
- **Saturday, April 26, 9-Noon, “Home Pharmacies” Workshop** with herbalist Phyliss Light, Grandmother’s Garden (*fee charged*)
- **Grandmother’s Garden Tours**, available upon request: email Sallie Lee at leesall@aces.edu
- TBA, A **Talk by Frances Robb** of Huntsville upon publication of her book on Alabama photography

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join as a member for 2014.
- Come to educational events.

To receive the 2014 annual publication, 2014 dues must be paid. Members’ books will be mailed if the books are not picked up at the events listed above.

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REPORT ON 2013 MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

January 1 to December 1, 2013

The following individuals have generously supported the Society at levels above the general membership dues. We acknowledge their support and express our gratitude.

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In memory of Edmond Scott Sprague: Ms. Alice Bowsher, Mr. & Mrs. Ehney A. Camp III, Dr. Julius Linn Jr., Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Thomas Moody, Ms. Carol L. Slaughter, Ms. Mary S. Steiner, Katherine L. Rutledge, Marjorie White. *In memory of Betty Brower:* Marjorie White

DONORS to BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS

MOUNTAIN BROOK—A HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

Financial Underwriting Porter, White & Co., Protective Life Foundation.

Contributors Richard Anderson, Scott Fuller, Birgit Kibelka, Julius Linn Jr., Jet Lowe, Katherine Tipton, John Wathen, Marjorie White.

DUNCAN HOUSE RENOVATIONS

Project Guidance Wayne Hester

The New Roof The Mike and Gilliam Goodrich Foundation

Conference Room Furnishings from the Steiner Bank, Linda Nelson and the Jefferson County Historic Commission

Rattan Porch Furnishings from the collection of her grandmother, Belle Sumter Roberts, Sumter Coleman

Second Saturday Front Porch Refinishing Wayne and Georgeann Hester, Carol Slaughter, Karen Utz, and Marjorie White.

GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN

Sallie M. Lee, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Bob Mead, Beverly Rausch, Sunshine Supplies, Marjorie White

Artists in the Garden Project

Sumter and Steve Coleman, Roger Carlisle, Gail Cosby, Ellen Erdreich, Lucy Jaffee, Barbara Morgan

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Birmingham Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to contribute to the quality of life in Birmingham by preserving, learning from, and celebrating the city's past while helping to shape its future.

Members receive newsletters, invitations to events and the annual publication. Those members joining at the Heritage Society level receive invitations to additional events.

To purchase Society publications, see the BHS website www.bhistorical.org or amazon.com for titles available or contact us at One Sloss Quarters, Birmingham, Alabama, 35222, telephone 205-251-1880. The Society promptly mails all book orders.

Membership is for the calendar year: January – December.

Members must pay 2014 dues to receive the 2014 publication.