

# Newsletter

December 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2020

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020

- We concentrated on our mission: research, publish, educate.
- Since inception in 1942, Birmingham Historical Society has collected records documenting our region's history, depositing most of them with the Birmingham Public Library. This year we focused on organizing and digitizing the 255 linear feet of records remaining at the Society, including our industrial, civil rights, parks and planning, and events files.
- We researched, wrote, illustrated, and distributed for comment, additions, and corrections our forthcoming 2021 Members' book: *Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of George Ward*, a project commissioned by the Sterne Agee Foundation in honor of the founder of the Birmingham investment banking concern, established in 1919 as Ward, Sterne, Inc.
- We researched, explored, and wrote *Altamont: A Portion of Red Mountain & Its Park*, working with neighborhood leaders to document the original intent for this park. Our efforts contributed to the formation of the Altamont Park Conservancy.
- We researched, wrote, and illustrated a newsletter on Samuel Ullman, his life, careers, Southside residence (now a museum), and his poem "Youth" and its popular acclaim among the Japanese people.
- We researched and wrote a newsletter on Birmingham epidemics: the Cholera of 1873 and the Spanish Flu of 1918.
- We organized and began research for a print and online guide to Birmingham to be prepared for Birmingham's Sesquicentennial Year in 2021.
- Our *Making It in the Birmingham District* exhibition is once again on view at McWane Center.
- We continued to build our digital collection of newsletters and books at <https://digital.archives.alabama.gov/digital/collection/hgpub/>
- We continued to build our Endowed Trust (\$1,592,621 on November 30, 2020) to ensure the continuity of the institution, with more than one-third of our members making gifts, over and above their membership dues, to this fund.

- We conducted the Annual Meeting on February 24, 2020, with talks on John T. Milner and the Making of Birmingham, a publication celebration for *The Birmingham District-An Industrial History and Guide*, and a tasting of 18 "Family Favorite" cakes and pies, baked by members. Donald Sweeney Jr.'s Friendship Cake and Judy Feagin's Coconut Pie won the contests.
- We continued to grow our early 20<sup>th</sup> century home garden with kitchen and medicinal herbs, vegetables, and flowers, working Sallie Lee and master gardeners of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.
- We researched and assisted in the restoration of the historic Bethel Baptist Church pastor's office and parsonage. Our *Shuttlesworth in Action* exhibit is currently showing at Bethel.
- We maintained the Society's website BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com, Facebook page, and Instagram and Amazon accounts.
- We sold more than 20 different books across the United States, especially best sellers: *Bob Moody's Birmingham* and *A Walk to Freedom*. Locally books are available at Shoppe and from our website: [BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com](http://BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com) and from [Amazon](http://Amazon).

### EVENTS COMING IN 2021

*(pending resolution of the Covid-19 pandemic)*

- The Annual Meeting, date TBA
- Publication Celebration for *Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of George Ward*, date TBA
- Publication Celebration for *A Guide to Birmingham*, date TBA
- Heritage Society Gathering 2020, Bush-Hill-Cooley House, Redmont Road, date TBA
- Heritage Society Gathering 2021, Meyer-Lanier House, Altamont Road, date TBA
- Alabama Plein Air Artists paint the Society's garden at Sloss Quarters, April 25

Photos, left to right: Trustees gathered for a pre-Covid meeting at our offices; Kitty Lineberry, Ging McLaughlin, Carole Bonner, and Kathy Sherrer tending our garden; Marjorie White and Brian Rushing exploring the historic features of Altamont Park; our Covid-era Conference table filled with file boxes.



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December 1, 2019 to December 1, 2020

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

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Alabama Cooperative  
Extension System (ACES)  
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Sterne-Agee Charitable Foundation

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to November 30, 2020

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Gregory Wilson  
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Louise A. Wrinkle

*In Honor of Carol Slaughter*

By Mr. & Mrs. William  
M. Slaughter

*In Honor of Marjorie White*

*And in appreciation for her work on  
Altamont Park*

By Mr. & Mrs. William  
J. Rushton IV

*In Memory of Craig Allen Jr.*

Meg North

*In Memory of Edna Bushnell*

Pat & Ehney Camp

*In Memory of Margot Kessler Marx*

Marjorie & Jim White

*In Memory of Wilmer Poynor*

Marjorie & Jim White

*In Memory of Richard Randolph II*

Alleen Cater

Marjorie & Jim White

*In Memory of A. Steve Williams III*

Pat & Ehney Camp III

Patrick Cather

Marjorie & Jim White

### *Birmingham Historical Society Research Publishing Education*

Established in 1942, Birmingham  
Historical Society celebrates the  
city's past while helping to shape  
its future.

The Society is a nonprofit  
organization supported by  
generous gifts of its members and  
patrons. Members receive  
newsletters, invitations to events,  
and the annual publication.

Members joining at the Heritage  
Society level receive invitations to  
additional events. More than 30  
BHS books are available for  
purchase at our web-site  
birminghamhistoricalsociety.com.

Membership is for the calendar  
year: January–December.

To become a member for 2021,  
please pay your dues.