



Newsletter

September 2016

For Science and Humanity: Building Southern Research (2016 Members' Book)

SOUTHERN RESEARCH CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY this year. At its founding in 1941, sponsoring scientific research to solve industrial, agricultural, and biological problems was new. The University of Alabama at Birmingham and its medical center did not yet exist. The general public had no idea why this research was valuable. In the ensuing years, Birmingham has become a center for scientific research. And scientists at Southern Research's Quinlan Hill campus have designed drugs to cure cancer, materials to make space travel safer, and ways to clean pollutants from our air and water.

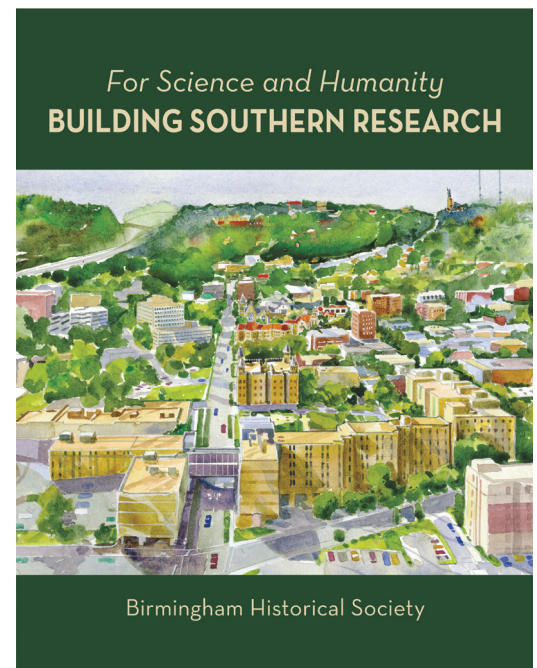
Our 2016 book tells the story of the formative years of Southern Research—of the leaders and donors who contributed the vision and the funds and of the scientists whose discoveries put the Institute on the map, both physically and scientifically. Superb black-and-white photographs document the players and projects as the Institute adaptively reused grand neighborhood residences and then built 330,000 square feet of laboratories.

Bob Moody admitted that he had never paid attention to the Southern Research complex until asked to illustrate it for the cover of our volume. He was pleasantly surprised, as we hope you will be.

Party at the Castle

Members may pick up their copy of this year's book at a party in the courtyards of Southern Research and of the Quinlan Castle on Sunday afternoon, November 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. (Daylight savings time ends November 6.) Southern Research, owner of the castle since 2008, has stabilized the

structure and planted a vegetable garden within the castle courtyard. A use for the structure has not been determined. Bring your driver's license (to pass security) and your 2016 dues, if not paid, for admission to the party. Books not picked up will be mailed to those not in attendance.



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Quinlan Hill's Transition

John Quinlan, the Catholic Bishop of Mobile, purchased a ridge on Red Mountain's northern flank from the Elyton Land Company, presumably to build a church or school. The ridge became known as Quinlan or Catholic Hill. Today's Ninth Avenue South was called Quinlan Avenue. By the 1880s the streetcar ran up 20th Street to residences at Five Points. Ten years later Quinlan Hill had developed with stately mansions, some set on expansive plots. In the early 20th century as the city grew, row houses, apartments, and groceries were also built. In the early 1940s, the area was zoned for development as a medical center. At this time Southern Research purchased the 1896 Morris-Cartwright house on its hilly two-acre site and later expanded by acquiring adjoining blocks.



Quinlan Castle. Watercolor by Bob Moody, 2016.

Quinlan Castle

Tales about why the castle was built and whether it is of English or French design abound. Dr. H. P. Hanna as president of the Quinlan Construction Company built it in 1927. Some liked the apartment complex; others did not. In the 1940s the local Communist Party secretary resided here; his apartment

was said to be party headquarters. Multiple owners and a name change to the Royal Arms ensued; the castle was no longer a fashionable residential address. Meanwhile, its impressive silhouette on the Birmingham skyline has been a most memorable landmark.

You are cordially invited to come join us for the
Heirloom Garden Workshop

Saturday, September 10 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN

Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark • 20 North 32nd Street

Horticulturalist SALLIE LEE and landscape architect and herbalist ANTONIA VITERI will lead an out-of-door, hands-on exploration of this year's flowers, veggies, and herbs. Our experts will take us through the ABCs of historic garden practice and fill our morning with talks, walks, tastings, and sachet making.

They will also send us home with "passed-along" plants and inspiration to help us pass along our new understandings.

Limited to 20 participants. To reserve a place, send your check for \$20 per person by Wednesday, September 7 to Birmingham Historical Society, One Sloss Quarters, Birmingham, AL 35222.

For more information, email bhistorical@gmail.com

*Sponsored by Birmingham Historical Society and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System
with the support of Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark.*

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Master gardeners Linda Goode, Kitty Lineberry, Ging McLaughlin, Christopher Pugh, and Antonia Viteri under the direction of Sallie Lee have cleared brush and debris and designed and planted a new garden area along the 32nd Street fence, providing a colorful presence along this busy corridor at the rear of our Grandmother's Garden. Summer rains are helping grow the abelia, forsythia, princess and purple fountain grasses, Mexican petunias, ginger and flax lilies, cotton and lantana.

Artists in the Garden

In watercolor and oil Gail Cosby, Sumter and Steve Coleman, Louise McPhillips, Roger Carlisle, Jane Reed Ross, and Laura Murphy have documented our spring and summer garden.



Christopher Pugh, Kitty Lineberry, and Linda Goode at work on the 32nd Street Fence garden.



Louise McPhillips paints the American Beauty roses on the front fence.



Gail Cosby shares a few watercolor techniques with Roger Carlisle.



Laura Murphy paints her view of our offices at Duncan House with the back porch roses in full bloom. The painting won a merit award at this year's Alabama Plein Air Artists' Show.



Gail Cosby also captured the roses on our front fence.

Scanning

Digitization of the Society's collections has been underway for the past year with Scott Fuller and Regina Ammon organizing the materials. Scott Fuller reports that we have scanned more than 500 gigabytes of information. It is backed up on multiple hard drives, and located in multiple locations.

Scans of the Society's official records (meeting agendas and minutes, financial reports, invitations, and correspondence as well as policy statements and agreements) for the years 1944 to 1954 and 1975 to 2015 have been made for preservation purposes and internal use.

Also scanned for eventual posting to the net via the Alabama Mosaic program managed by the Auburn University library are newsletters and press clippings on the Society's programs; unpublished research reports on topics (such as architectural styles, the Rev. Fred Lee Shuttlesworth, and Turkey and Village Creeks); National Register nominations on the city center and civil rights; and issues of the Society's *Journal* published from 1960 to 1963 and from 1977 to 1987; educational programs for elementary school students; and studies, reports, and training materials on Vulcan and His Park competed from 1993 to 2001 in support of the preservation of our city's symbol.

Easement Review

Wayne Hester, Chairman of the Society's Easement Committee, reports that his committee has recently reviewed and approved renovations to the Redmont Hotel and the Jemison House in Forest Park. The Society also holds conserva-

tion easements on the exteriors of the Altamont, Avalon, Claridge, Cobb Lane, Hanover Court, Harli Court, and Highland Plaza Condominium buildings in Southside and the Marks-Fitzgerald, Spencer, and Zinszer buildings in the city center.

Society Calendar

SEPTEMBER 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Heirloom Garden Workshop; fee charged

OCTOBER 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Roses – Their History and Use
A Second Saturday at Sloss Walk and Talk

NOVEMBER 6, 2-4 p.m.
Party at the Castle
Southern Research campus, 9th Avenue South.
Release of the 2016 Members' Publication

FEBRUARY 27, 4 p.m.
Heirloom Cake Contest, the time to bring your family favorite and the recipe to make it, Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium

FEBRUARY 27, 7 p.m.
Shot in Alabama – A History of Photography, 1839-1941, a talk and book signing with Frances Robb, and a cake tasting, Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium

One Sloss Quarters
Birmingham, Alabama 35222
www.bhistorical.org

