

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2019

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019

- Queried members for their thoughts on the Society's mission and performance, receiving a 33% written response with many helpful suggestions
- Worked to develop a strategic plan to help guide the Society in future years
- Continued to build our Endowed Trust to ensure the continuity of the institution, and inaugurated an Annual Fund for the Endowment to which a third of the members responded
- Set up a new website ([birminghamhistoricalsociety.com](http://birminghamhistoricalsociety.com)), Facebook page, and Instagram accounts, adding online purchasing of Society books and memberships
- Conducted the Annual Meeting with talks and book signing for our *Shades Creek: Flowing Through Time*. And savored members Heirloom Cakes
- Mounted two exhibits of photographs and drawings at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Library Gallery
- Hosted the annual Heritage Society Gathering at the Jemison-Lathrop/Crittenden House
- Researched historical happenings in the 25 George Ward scrapbooks for our forthcoming 2021 volume on George Ward's Birmingham: A City Beautiful, commissioned by the Sterne Agee Foundation in honor of their founder
- Almost completed Historic American Engineering Record documentation (large-format photographs, measured drawings and a footnoted history) of the Ross Creek Culvert, built late 1863
- Continued to grow our demonstration home garden with kitchen and medicinal herbs, flowers, and vegetables, working with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

- Conducted eight Second Saturday presentations featuring the culinary traditions our historic immigrant groups brought to our Birmingham Foodways
- Continued to build our digital collection at <http://digital.archives.alabama.gov.cdm/landingpage/collection/hgpub>
- Wrote, illustrated and published an herbal featuring medicinal plants grown in our garden

### EVENTS COMING IN 2020

- **Monday, Feb. 24, 7 pm** The Annual Meeting: The South & North, or John T. Milner and the Making of Birmingham; a publication celebration for *The Birmingham District-An Industrial History and Guide*, and book signing with Marjorie White, Auditorium, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- **Sunday, April 5, 2 pm** Palm Sunday Church Tour to Avondale
- **Saturday, May 2, 9-4 pm**, Alabama Plein Air Artists paint at Grandmother's Garden
- **Sunday, May 17, Noon**, Heritage Society Gathering, Bush-Hill-Cooley House, Redmont Road (Heritage Society Membership required)
- Second Saturdays at Sloss-Walks and Talks in Grandmother's Garden, TBA, 10:30-11:30 am
- **Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 am** Shades Creek Talk at the Homewood Historical Society, Homewood Library

*Left to right*, Tom Carruthers declaring the Shades Creek book "a masterwork"; Rotoract group, enjoying Grandmother's Garden; Grace White and Karyn Uptain serving the prize-winning cake; *Pretty Posies* authors and illustrators: Marjorie White, Ellen Erdreich, Sumter Coleman, Antonia Viteri, Gail Cosby, Louise McPhillips, and Jane Reed Ross.



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October 1, 2018 to December 1, 2019

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We acknowledge their support and express our gratitude.

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*Putting the Past to Use for the Future*

Established in 1942, Birmingham Historical Society contributes to the quality of life in Birmingham by preserving, learning from, and celebrating the city's past while helping to shape its future.

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Membership is for the calendar year: January–December.

To receive the 2020 annual publication, pay your dues.