

Newsletter

December 2021



A YEAR FILLED WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We concentrated on our mission: research, publishing, and education.
- We published *Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of George Ward*, commissioned by the Sterne Agee Foundation in honor of the founder of this historic Birmingham securities firm, established in 1919 as Ward, Sterne, Inc.
- We celebrated the release of *Birmingham: The City Beautiful* at “An Evening in Honor of George Ward” with a presentation at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
- We researched and physically explored George Ward’s 10-acre Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary on the bluffs of Shades Mountain at his Vestavia estate and worked with its owner and community partners to plan for restoration of the forested area as well as its permanent dedication as a sanctuary.
- We researched, physically explored, and documented Brock’s Gap, the final link in the arrival of the railroad that led to the creation of Birmingham 150 years ago. Newsletters and a nomination to the Alabama Register of Historic Places were prepared. The Alabama Historical Commission declared the site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Development currently threatens historic resources at the gap.
- We researched and published newsletters on the following topics:
 Birmingham’s founding on December 19, 1871
 Rail to trail projects including the Rotary and Kiwanis-Vulcan Trails and the possibilities of creating a greenway at Brock’s Gap
 Farming in Old [i. e. antebellum] Elyton as revealed in the U. S. Censuses
 Birmingham’s City Beautiful Movement, 1905-1940
 George Ward’s founding of the Birmingham (now Alabama) Audubon and his wildflower and bird sanctuary at Vestavia
- We gathered the Heritage Society at Highlands Bar & Grill to celebrate 40 years of this James Beard Award winning “best restaurant in the United States.”
- We researched and began writing a print and online guide to Birmingham that will be released in future years.
- 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 (\$1,740,770.96 on November 30, 2021) to support the Society in future years. More than one-half of our members have made gifts, over and above their membership dues, to support the Society in future years.
- We continued to grow our early 20th century home garden with kitchen and medicinal herbs, vegetables, and flowers, working with master gardeners from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.
- 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. Best sellers continue to be *Bob Moody’s Birmingham-A City in Watercolor* and *A Walk to Freedom-The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights*. The Society’s books are available by mail from our website (BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com), from Amazon, and at pop up sales about the city.

EVENTS COMING IN 2022

- “Frederick Law Olmsted: Bringing Nature to the City and Creating Breathing Space for Democracy,” Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 6 p.m. Register at bbgardens.org/olmsted
- The Annual Members Meeting, “A Local Landmark & A Legendary Leader: Slossfield & Dr. Boulware” with Sharon Holley, UAB Midwifery Program, School of Nursing, and Thomas Boulware, February 28, 7 p.m., Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- Publication Celebration for the 2022 book on Smithfield and Dynamite Hill, Congregational Church, Center Street, fall TBA
- Heritage Society Gathering, Bush-Hill-Cooley House, Redmont Road, April 24, 2022

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December 1, 2020 to December 1, 2021

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We acknowledge their support and express our gratitude.

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*Birmingham Historical Society
Research Publishing Education*

WHO WE ARE

A non-profit established in 1942. Birmingham Historical Society educates and engages the public to make our shared history and heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Society relies on donations to support the many programs and initiatives that promote education about and stewardship of our shared history.

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 Society books are available for purchase at BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com

