

Newsletter

February 2017

Let Us Eat (Heirloom) Cake ... with Frances Robb

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Society Monday evening, February 27, at 7 p.m. Art historian, indefatigable researcher, and THE expert on Alabama photographs, Frances Robb will speak and share insights from her milestone accomplishment *Shot in Alabama: A History of Photography, 1839-1941, and a List of Photographers*. Pieced together over the past 25 years that Robb has lived in Huntsville, Alabama, the 529-page book brings together her favorite photographs and commentary on those who shot them, when, and why. *Shot in Alabama* is on the Bicentennial Bookshelf, a short list of volumes you might choose to read in celebration of Alabama's Bicentennial in 2019. It is hot off the presses.

As you may recall, Frances Robb spoke to the Society years ago, as she did for many groups across the state, and helped us identify and date our family photographs. All the while, she scoured collections in Alabama and across America for Alabama photographs and photographers. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for bringing forth *Shot in Alabama*, the first major scholarly work on those hundreds of photographers, 1,400 to be precise. These photographers are male and female, black and white, amateurs and professionals, some famous and others unknown, but to Robb. Her labors will make them known to museums, archives, and libraries and to us on February 27. We'll see into the personal lives of many Alabamians as well as into the collective rural and urban history of our state.



The Grapevine Swing, mid-1890s. Selma photographer Mary Morgan Keipp exhibited work like this in shows with the greatest American photographers, including Alfred Stieglitz. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

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Photo Courtesy Chris Cooper

More About Our Speaker

Frances Osborn Robb is a Birmingham native and alumna of Birmingham-Southern College. Her graduate work in English and art history took her to the Universities of North Carolina and Wisconsin. After she met her husband, future museum curator and director David Robb, it was off to Yale for more study and then to Fort Worth, Texas for 17 years before coming to Alabama. The couple has two sons who follow their parents' scholarly bent: Andrew, a senior conservator of photographs for the Library of Congress and Matthew, a curator at UCLA's museum.

Where to Get Shot in Alabama

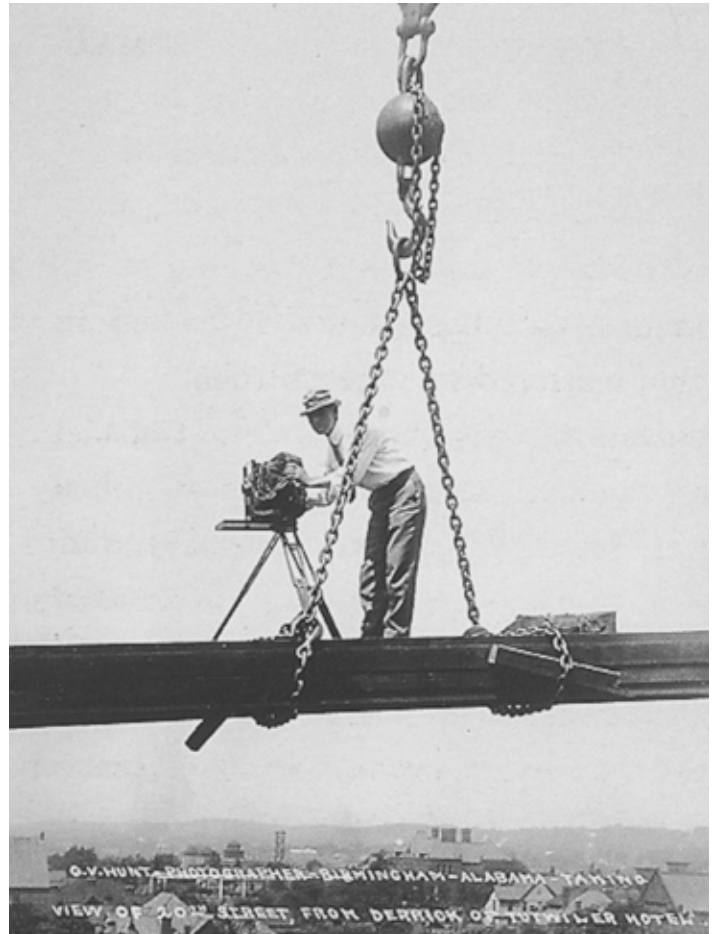
Frances Robb's new book *Shot in Alabama* will be available for purchase at the meeting for \$59.95.

More About Our Refreshments

See the Heirloom Cake Competition Information and think seriously about entering—entry form on Page 4.



Mobile Point Lighthouse, 1864. Moses and Piffet made this photograph of the heavily damaged beacon following the Battle of Mobile Bay. National Archives, College Park, Maryland.



Making a View of 20th Street, July 18, 1913. Posing atop the Tutwiler Hotel, then under construction, is the daring Birmingham commercial photographer O.V. Hunt. Birmingham Public Library Archives.

Society News

About Membership

Membership in the Society is for the calendar year, January through December. Members whose yearly dues are paid will receive the annual publication at an event or by mail. Others will remain on the mailing list in the hope that they will continue to support the Society. Members contributing honoraria, memorials, to the endowment, special projects, and \$100 or more are acknowledged in the annual report. All members are listed in the Society's bound and digitized Annual Records.

New Trustees and Officers to Be Elected February 27

Carol Slaughter, chairman of the Nominating Committee, reports that the following individuals, if elected at the Annual Meeting, are willing to serve as Trustees: Camille Agricola Bowman, Karyn Uptain, and Gregory Wilson, and as Officers: Kaydey Erdreich Breman, Vice President, and Allison Boone, Treasurer.

About Our Shades Creek History

This was and remains Tom Carruthers' "big idea" and many are making the research and future publication possible under the direction of Birgit Kibelka and Marjorie White.

Society Calendar

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 4 p.m.

Heirloom Cake Contest

Hodges Auditorium, Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7 p.m.

Publication Celebration for Frances Robb and her book: *Shot in Alabama: A History of Photography, 1839-1941*, Hodges Auditorium, Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, Noon

Heritage Society Luncheon

Crawford Johnson-Bernard and Maye Frei House on Cherokee Road.

EARLY FALL

Release of this year's members' book:
Warren H. Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner.

OCTOBER 13-14

**Alabama Plein Air Artists paint
Grandmother's Garden.**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 3 p.m.

Celebration of the Society's 75th Anniversary,
ArchitectureWorks-formerly
Birmingham Publishing Co.

- Michelle Blackmon and Henry Hughes of the Friends of Shades Creek and James Lowery have provided inspired leadership and ever-continuing information.
- Photographers Hunter Nichols and Abraham Odrezin have canoed, walked, waded into, and flown drones over Shades Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the Cahaba River, 57 creek miles downstream. Hunter has photographed Henry Hughes' work with the replanting of our native forests.
- Birgit Kibelka, Judy Jones, Katie Tipton, and Joe and Christina Wilson photographed the creek at each of its 27 crossings. James Lowery has walked and photographed just about every mile of the creek's tributaries: the Watkins and Griffin Brooks.
- Ellen McLaughlin took us on an amazing wildflower walk.
- Brian Rushing is working on geology and geography chapters
- Archaeologist Bruce Bizzoco has finished a draft on Indian occupation of Shades Valley.
- Greg Harber is working on a study of birds in the valley.
- Carolyn Kohlar has helped with Ross Bridge research.
- Richard Anderson will develop measured and interpretive drawings and submit "the Ross Bridge" to the Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service. James Brown, retired Samford professor, has been instrumental not only in saving the railroad culvert in 2002 but in helping us learn its history and that of other abandoned structures along the old South & North Railroad bed.

Second Saturdays at Sloss Walks and Talks for Spring 2017

Join herbalist Antonia Viteri and horticulturalist Sallie Lee for the popular gatherings in Grandmother's Garden. Rain or shine from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The garden's Facebook page "Grandmother's Garden at Sloss" contains more information on our garden.

March 11 Weeds – Your Backyard Pharmacy

Many nourishing and medicinal plants--like dandelion and chickweed--grow wild and abundantly in our backyards. Learn to identify and use these plants that have historically provided inexpensive nutritional and healing benefits. Their minerals, vitamins, and water content exceed that of the same store-bought specimens.

April 8 Culinary Herbs – Parsley, Sage, and Thyme

The ancient tradition of cooking with herbs provides both sustenance and medicine. These herbs not only season and help preserve foods, but also provide powerful healing properties that reduce headaches, colds, and flu as well as stress and anxiety.

May 13 Maypop and Mulberry – Spring Super Foods

The Maypop vine, known for its exquisite Passion Flowers, and mulberry tree, often considered just too messy due to its copious and juicy berries, have long been used to support the nervous, circulatory, immune, and digestive systems.

2017 HEIRLOOM CAKE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

NAME(S) OF MY CAKE _____

MY CAKE'S STORY: Memories, whose recipe it was, when was it served—any history you know about cake in general. Details, please.

RECIPE. Must be typed and affixed to this form.

I give my permission for Birmingham Historical Society to serve my cake at its February 27th meeting and to publish my recipe. Y / N (circle one)

Signature _____ Date _____

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND BRING THIS FORM
WITH YOUR CAKE ENTRY**

Between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. February 27.

Winners will be announced during the BHS Annual Meeting.



2017 HEIRLOOM CAKE COMPETITION RULES

1. Recipe must pre-date World War II (1941 or earlier).
2. Cake must be accompanied by its story (see entry form).
3. Cake must be traditional "full size" cake; no mini-cakes or cupcakes.
4. No box cake mixes, "modern" short cuts or changes to original directions.
5. May use angel food pans, layer cake pans, sheet cake pans IF called for in original recipe. (For ex: Bundt pans weren't invented until 1950.)
6. Cake and completed entry form must be turned in before 4 p.m. on February 27 in the auditorium of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Doors open at 3 p.m. Judging begins promptly at 4:15 p.m. Latecomers will not be allowed to enter.
7. Only members of the Birmingham Historical Society can enter. However, you can join the Society at the event for \$40/annual membership, cash or check.
8. Winning cakes and bakers will be announced at the Society's meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium. The cakes will be served to those attending the Society meeting following the speaker.

● ● ● ● ● JUDGING CRITERIA ● ● ● ● ●

FLAVOR (*aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings*)

TEXTURE (*moist and tender crumb; not soggy or dry*)

INSIDE CHARACTERISTICS (*even grain, evenly baked; free from air pockets*)

OVERALL APPEAL (*consistent shape/size/surface, inviting interest*)

HERITAGE (*representing another era, true to processes and ingredients available in that period. Great story and traditional use*)

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

NOVEMBER 5, 1942
75 YEARS
NOVEMBER 5, 2017

