

## BLYTHEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

# Blythewood's Garden Club and Scrapbook

Online Exhibit Panel Project

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First published in 1976, the *Blythewood Scrapbook* is a collection of short histories about the town, its people, churches, schools and community groups. As the only published history of Blythewood, the book has gone through several printings, and was written by the Blythewood Garden Club. It highlights people from the town's earliest years, such as Samuel Bookhart, who ran the Blythewood Female Seminary in 1860, to current residents such as artist Harold Branham.

There are photographs and sketches throughout the *Blythewood Scrapbook* that show the families and buildings that populate this area and the nearby Cedar Creek community. This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in the town.

The Blythewood Garden Club is historic in its own right. Established in 1953 by 25 local ladies, the club's first president was Mrs. T.H. Wilds. Within two years they held their first flower show, in the local school gymnasium. The beautiful arrangements attracted a large crowd, and the club made it an annual event for many years.

Some of the projects for the club included creating and maintaining a roadside park, planting shrubs and assisting with landscaping at local public buildings, and beautifying roadsides. Individually, club members worked on their own properties to improve their gardens. Through the club, they learned about the care of plants and presented annual programs. Their publication of the *Blythewood Scrapbook* was another example of their civic service to the town.

You can see some of the club's handiwork on the grounds of the Blythewood Historical Society and Museum. The club created a Carolina Fence Garden which has beautiful flowers against the backdrop of a split rail fence. Located between the parking area and the house, this garden is a wonderful contribution to the grounds of the Museum.

