

BLYTHEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Blythewood's Artist—Harold Branham

Online Exhibit Panel Project

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When you visit the Blythewood Historical Society and Museum, you will see a wall dedicated to the artwork of Harold Branham. On this wall, the Museum displays the work of Mr. Branham that usually features historic Blythewood. As you enter the Train Room, you'll see a large mural that he painted, which depicts the view from the train as it entered Blythewood in the early 1900s. He is this area's most famous artist, and his skills showed up early in childhood. While in church he drew on the pages of a song book, but when his mother noticed she did not deliver a rebuke. Instead, she said "Son, that's good!"

Since artists often have trouble earning a living on their talent alone, Mr. Branham directed his skills towards sign painting for many years. This allowed him to provide a much-needed service but in the 1980s he began to take his art seriously. His paintings are generally of nature or of buildings, sometimes as they appeared decades ago, and he likes to sneak in a Clemson tiger paw into many of his paintings. He put one in the mural in the Train Room, but it is hard to find. Maybe you can search for it on your visit to the Museum.

Mr. Branham often has a story behind his work, and as a native with a long family history in the area, he knows a lot about local stories and buildings. Within the past few years his works were chosen to be on display at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

Please stop by and enjoy art by Harold Branham at the Blythewood Historical Society and Museum.

References: *Blythewood Scrapbook*, Blythewood Garden Club (2004), 41-42, Personal Communication

