

# Birmingham History Center

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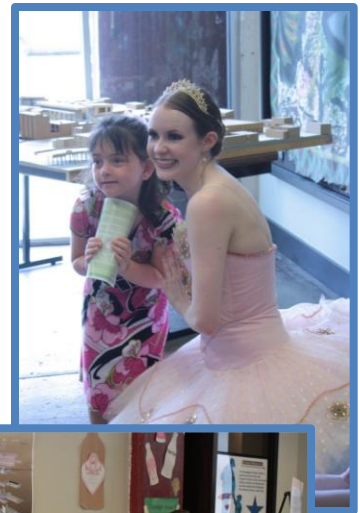
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September 1, 2012

## Member Day – July 21, 2012

Nearly 200 adults and children poured into the Birmingham History Center on Member Day, Saturday, July 21, to see an Alabama Ballet soloist perform, participate in a craft activity and visit the history center's museum.

Member Day is an annual event involving dozens of Birmingham arts, culture, and educational attractions that offer free admission to members of each other's organizations. Each summer, Member Day attraction-hoppers can sample what Birmingham has to offer for the price of one membership at any participating venue.



To join our email List send us an email at:  
[info@birminghamhistorycenter.org](mailto:info@birminghamhistorycenter.org)

Birmingham History Center

THOMAS E. JERNIGAN SR. MEMORIAL

## Letter from the Director/Jerry Desmond



I spent the first two weeks in July on vacation at my mother's home in Northern Maine. While there, the temperature got up to 77 degrees and everyone was blaming me for bringing the scorching heat up from Alabama. That same day it was 103 degrees in the Magic City. But I am glad to be back and looking forward to the milder weather in the fall, when it is 77 degrees here and 25 degrees back home in Maine.

Member day was a great success in July. Many thanks to Liz Ellaby, staff member, who did a great job keeping things moving on a busy Saturday. This program really is a great deal, as any of our members on that day can visit most of the cultural spots in the city for free and vice versa. One of the perks for being a member at the History Center.

We continue to offer free admission to veterans and their families until Labor Day as part of the Blue Star Museum project. We hope that area veterans will also fill out a brief questionnaire about their service for our records. It is a pleasure and honor to talk with these American heroes and give back a small token of our appreciation.

DEZ

## Featured New Artifact

We do not have an extensive sports collection at the History Center, so we were very pleased to get this National Blind Golf Championship trophy won by Charles Boswell in 1960. Charles Boswell, a native of Birmingham, was blinded by an exploding German artillery shell in 1944. As an athlete before the war at the University of Alabama, Boswell took up golf after his injury, eventually winning 28 major blind golf championships.

This trophy was won at the blind golf championship held at the Kebo Valley County Club in Bar Harbor, Maine, an extremely difficult course. As a native of Maine and a golfer, I have played Kebo many times and never taken less than 95 strokes in 18 holes. It is a hard course. Charles Boswell shot a final round of 100 in 1960, sinking an 18 foot birdie putt on the last hole to win the championship by 3 strokes. Amazing.



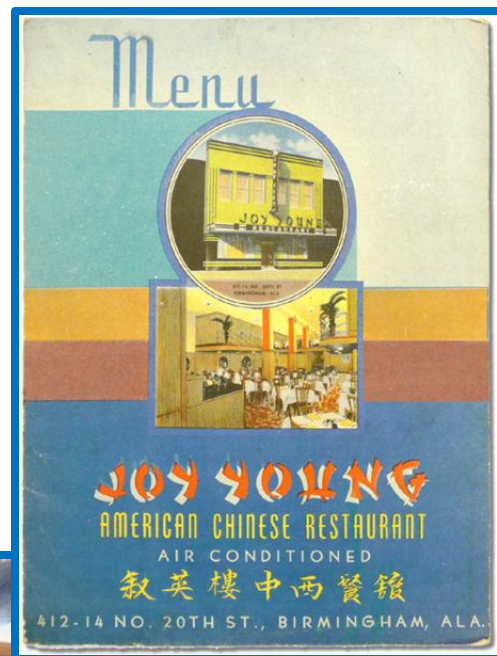
## On Exhibit - Joy Young's Menu

We do have a lot of interesting artifacts on exhibit at the History Center. However, the one item which seems to evoke nostalgia is the Joy Young Chinese Restaurant menu. Groups of Birmingham natives on tour at the Center especially seem to break into whistfulness as they turn the corner and see the menu, glass and fork from that fabled eatery. "Oh, they had the best egg rolls ever." "My parents always took us downtown to Joy Young's for Sunday dinner" "I can smell the Chow Mein now." "I can see the waiters, they wore red suits with big lapels." "My husband proposed to me behind the brown curtains." "The Chinese cashier with a bun sat there and surveyed her domain."



In 1919, four Chinese-American businessmen (Mansion Joe, Loo Choy, Loo Bing, and George Sai) opened a restaurant in downtown Birmingham. Eventually they moved to 412—414 20<sup>th</sup> Street North opposite the Tutwiler Hotel, a very popular location. It was originally known as the King Joy Inn Restaurant. No one seems to know how it eventually became Joy Young's, apparently there never was an owner who went by that name.

(Continued on Page 4)

On Exhibit – Joy Young's Menu(Continued from page 3)

Photos: Exterior of the restaurant from 1937, menu from 1950, interior of the restaurant from the 1960s.



Several varieties of "chop suey", "egg foo young", and "chow mein" dominated the portion of the menu labeled "Mandarin Style". The other half of the menu offered "American" favorites for less adventurous diners. The *Birmingham News* listed Joy Young's fried chicken (1/2 spring chicken, fried for \$1.25 in 1950) as the best in Birmingham. When the Tutwiler Hotel across the street was demolished, the original Joy Young closed its doors. Owner Henry Joe reopened in the Brookwood Gallery, where it operated until the late 1980s. Joy Young ended its life as a take-out egg roll store in Pelham. Some have noted that the egg rolls and other dishes at the Chop Suey Inn on Green Springs Highway in Homewood are unmistakably similar to Joy Young's. (Source - BHAMWIKI)

# Wall of Valor

The History Center has identified 96 men from Jefferson County who have been awarded a Silver Star, Navy Cross or Distinguished Service Cross for valor in foreign wars. The History Center needs photographs and service records for these men. Please call if you know these men or others in the county who have earned these awards.

Alexander, Mearl Charles, Birmingham  
 Armstrong, Jack, Jefferson County  
 Badham, William T., Birmingham  
 Barker, Joseph Rhett, Jefferson County  
 Barnes, Walter K., Birmingham  
 Bibb, Ross Eugene, Warrior  
 Bolt, Bernard H., Birmingham  
 Bowers, Lloyd G., Birmingham  
 Bradford, Thomas C., Birmingham  
 Brake, Earl O., Jefferson County  
 Brown, Walter, Birmingham  
 Chaney, James L., Jefferson County  
 Clincy, Will, Birmingham  
 Coates, Roman Willies, Jefferson County  
 Cobb, Henry H., Birmingham  
 Cork, Thomas Ruel, Jefferson County  
 Cowden, Edward E., Birmingham  
 Crowder, Donald Gene, Jefferson County  
 Cusimano, Samuel Bolden, Birmingham  
 Davis, Cecil B., Birmingham  
 Davis, Richard Franklin, Jefferson County  
 Dent, Elliott Estill, Birmingham  
 Doss, Dale Walter, Birmingham  
 Doss, Harry A., Birmingham  
 Douglas, John E., Bessemer  
 Dunlap, Ernest Huston, Birmingham  
 Earle, Edward P., Jefferson County  
 Elkins, Stephen B., Birmingham  
 Fancher, Maxie, Jefferson County  
 Finley, John W., Jefferson County  
 Ford, Wilson, Birmingham  
 Gerst, James L., Bessemer  
 Goodall, Robert M., Birmingham  
 Greathouse, Melvin, Warrior  
 Green, Maurice O. V., Birmingham  
 Greene, Bruce A., Birmingham  
 Grundmann, Hugh S., Jefferson County  
 Gunter, Alton Raybourn, Birmingham  
 Hall, Varner, Birmingham  
 Hanson, Howell R., Birmingham  
 Harris, John A., Birmingham  
 Hatley, William Howard, Jefferson County  
 Hawley, Edwin Alexander, Birmingham  
 Henley, Courtney S., Birmingham  
 Hill, Joe C., Birmingham  
 Holemon, William L., Birmingham  
 Holmes, Roy E., Jefferson County  
 Hutto, John B., Birmingham



Johnston, Gordon, Birmingham  
 Jones, James Gradey, Birmingham  
 Jones, William H., Jefferson County  
 Jordan, Mortimer H., Birmingham  
 Keith, John W., Jefferson County  
 Kingsley, Willie Lonie, Jefferson County  
 Knight, Terry W., Birmingham  
 Kozlowski, Chester W., Birmingham  
 Lacey, Robert Lenwood, Jefferson County  
 Langston, Clem Lee, Birmingham  
 Lawley, William Robert, Birmingham  
 Lawson, Walter Rolls, Birmingham  
 Lige, Amos, Jefferson County  
 McCain, Michael Clinton, Birmingham  
 McElroy, James Russell, Birmingham  
 McNeal, Samuel P., Birmingham  
 Mitchel, Archie F., Jefferson County  
 Mitchell, Arthur, Bessemer  
 Mitchell, Henry Earl, Birmingham  
 Moreno, Aristides, Birmingham  
 Moss, Alonza, Jefferson County  
 Neely, Dan Lee, Birmingham  
 Norris, Ravee, Birmingham  
 Oliver, Kenneth E., Jefferson County  
 Owen, Paul Alexander, Bessemer  
 Pannell, Horace L., Warrior  
 Parsons, James Kelly, Birmingham  
 Phillips, Gregory P., Birmingham  
 Potter, Robert E., Birmingham  
 Prickett, Samuel Lee, Bessemer  
 Randolph, George B., Birmingham  
 Reno, Charles L., Jefferson County  
 Roberts, John Quincy, Birmingham  
 Roebuck, Gerald Edward, Birmingham  
 Saunders, Harry J., Jefferson County  
 Scott, Donald W., Birmingham  
 Sealie, Mitchell J., Birmingham  
 Shropshire, James Edward, Birmingham  
 Sites, David Thomas, Birmingham  
 Smiley, Clare Brown, Birmingham  
 Smith, Leland W., Birmingham  
 Stigler, Stephen L., Birmingham  
 Watson, George, Birmingham  
 Watts, Eddie, Jefferson County  
 Whited, Homer, Bessemer  
 Williams, George L., Jefferson County  
 Willis, Charles A., Jefferson County  
 Wilson, Harold Edward "Speedy," Birmingham

# Bromberg's 1900

**Bromberg's** is a jewelry, crystal, silver and gift retailer with two locations in the Birmingham area and one in Montgomery. The firm was founded by Prussian immigrant Frederick Bromberg in Mobile in 1836 and is the oldest company in Alabama. In 1900, his grandson, Frederick W. Bromberg opened a store in the rapidly growing city of Birmingham. He bought out an existing jeweler, Gluck and Black, and took over their space in Linn's Folly, the first home of the First National Bank of Birmingham. His sign read **F. W. Bromberg, Jeweler**. He relocated to the new Farley Building two blocks north when it was completed in 1902. In the next years his four children, William, Robert, Charles and Frank, all began working in the store.

In 1943, the Brombergs negotiated to obtain the property for a grand new store at 123 20<sup>th</sup> Street North. They hired J. Gordon Carr, the architect of Tiffany's 5th Avenue flagship store in New York City, to design the modern showcase. As soon as building materials were available following the war, Brice Building Company began work. The grand re-opening was held on July 22, 1946.

"For all their most important purchases in jewelry, Birmingham residents know they can come to Bromberg's for the very finest quality and service." – quote from Bromberg's website ([www.brombergs.com](http://www.brombergs.com)) (Article source - BHAMWIKI)



Bromberg's corporate headquarters  
123 20<sup>th</sup> Street North, Birmingham

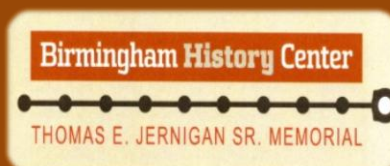


Location at the  
Summit  
shopping center,  
Highway 280, in  
Birmingham



## This Edition's Featured Enduring Business

*Honoring area companies that have been in business for at least 75 years.*



# Milestone!

## 1,000 Collections

## 11,200 Artifacts

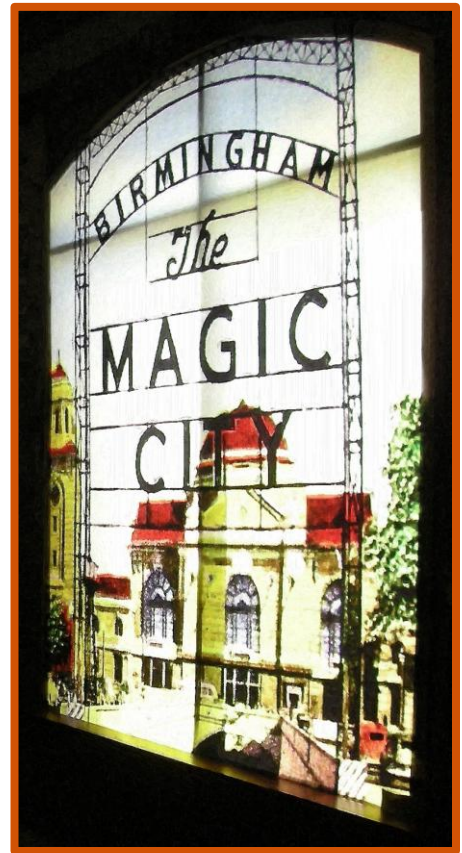
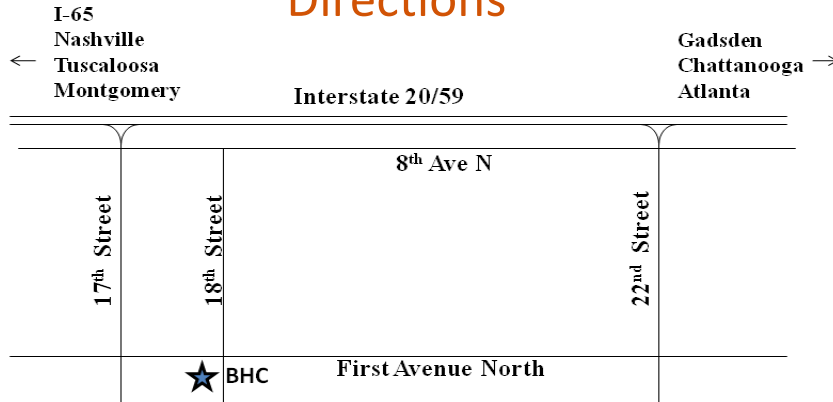
Thank you for helping us  
preserve our history.



# Birmingham History Center

Recently opened in the Spring of 2010, the BHC features exhibitions of historical events of Birmingham and Jefferson County from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Admission charged: \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and veterans, \$2 students, children under 6 free. Visa, Discover, Master Card accepted; tickets available also by phone. Group rates available, free parking. Open 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Located at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue North in Birmingham at the historic Young and Vann Building.

## Directions



## Birmingham History Center

1731 First Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

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