

# *Virginia Pope*



Virginia Pope, an Alabama native came to Douglas County in 1975. Upon her arrival in order to learn more about her new home and the town she began helping Fannie Mae Davis with her historical account of Douglas County, “From Indian Trail to I 20”. Having written and published a book of her own, she worked as editor and compiled the information to have Mrs. Davis’s book published. Today, this book is the official history of Douglas County, Georgia.

Mrs. Pope’s interest in history led to involvement with the City of Douglasville’s Historic Preservation Commission, where as chairman she was instrumental in getting the city’s historic district officially designated and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While working with the Douglas County Tourism and History Commission she became involved in the effort to save the Old Courthouse that was opened in 1958 after the previous courthouse burned in 1956. She eventually overseeing its conversion into a museum and securing a place for the building on the National Register of Historic Places. She sat on the original museum board and was co-chair of the organizing committee for the Douglas County Historical Society. Currently she is the director of Acquisitions for the Douglas County Museum of History and Art where she volunteers one day a week.

Until recently she was an active member of the Town and Country Garden Club where she held state and local positions in the organization and worked on many projects as president. This experience allowed her to organize the Sweetwater Garden Club of Lithia Springs, Georgia. Her love of flowers led her to serve on the Flower Show Committee for the Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival, a standard flower show which has won both district, state and national awards.

As founding president of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County, she guided the institution through its organization state and laid the groundwork for it to become the cultural force it is today.

In 2006 Mrs. Pope was honored by the New Mountain Top Baptist Church as a legend, recognizing her as leading lady of the community. In 2018 she was again honored by Douglasville/Douglas County with the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award.