

Exhibits Archive

Past exhibits -- no longer on display.

Only the Smokehouse Remains



Our June-August 2017 exhibit, Only the Smokehouse Remains, displayed photos of CCHA's project to restore the 1850s era smokehouse discovered on the Frederick Jones Hill estate when preparations were being made to construct the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center on that property.

CCHA rescued the structure from the construction site and has undertaken a restoration project that will ultimately return the restored smokehouse to the

Ag Center property where it will serve as an educational feature and reminder of Chatham's long agricultural heritage.

In the early spring of 2017, CCHA partnered with Central Carolina Community College to offer a class in historic restoration techniques. Students in the class devoted 16 Saturdays to constructing replacements for damaged parts of the structure. A foundation has been constructed on the Ag Center site in preparation for reassembly of the structure on-site in coming months.

CCHA is grateful for the community interest in the project and for the financial contributions received from community businesses, organizations, and individuals to date. We offer special thanks for generous financial and in-kind donations from the James Milton Johnson & Laura Blair Johnson Trust, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Earl Thomas Grading, and Chandler Concrete of Pittsboro which have funded much of our progress to date.

We need your help! Donations of any amount will help us return the smokehouse to the property where it stood for more than 150 years. Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be installed on or near the smokehouse when it is restored.

[Learn more about how you can help.](#)

Honoring the History of Health



Honoring the History of Health, our April-May 2017 exhibit, highlighted the contributions of a number of Chatham County physicians, pharmacists, and North Carolina's first organic farmer. From the early 19th century to the present day, from Gulf to Pittsboro, Egypt to Siler City, these Chatham healers used the potions and practices of their times to treat the ailments of their neighbors. The exhibit also included a display of early medical artifacts.

CCHA is grateful to the following for their contributions to this exhibit: S&T Soda Shoppe, Pittsboro; JR Moore & Son, Gulf; Cecilia Budd Grimes, Siler City; Chatham County Libraries.

African Americans in Chatham County History



This display highlighted the lives of eight Chatham County African Americans who contributed in various ways to the county's rich history from the 1700s to the present. Learn about Lewis Freeman, an early and successful free black settler in Pittsboro; Mildred Edna Cotton Council of Mama Dip's Kitchen in Chapel Hill; John Chavis, "Missionary to the Slaves;" Alexander Scarborough, a slave who served as sexton of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church; Gatha Horton Lassiter, "Conscience of the Community;" as well as Benjamin

Joseph Lee; J.R. Richardson; and Simon Green Atkins. Their stories are part of the tapestry of Chatham County's history. Exhibited in February and March 2017.

Goin' Home, Goin' Home



This display highlighted a few of the African-American Funeral Programs in CCHA's collection. These programs represent a rich tradition in the black community and a valuable resource for those interested in family histories. Written by and about African Americans, the obituaries provide an important source of local history about African Americans in Chatham County, highlighting religious, occupational and educational affiliations, as well as personal traits that loved-ones noted about the deceased.

[Click here](#) for more about the Funeral Program collection. Exhibited 2016
