

Exhibits Archive

Past exhibits -- no longer on display.

Chatham Places Old and New



Familiar places and other's you've probably never heard of—all on a current Chatham map—along with postmarks from former Chatham places.

Discover places like Pluck, Waldo, Griffin's Crossroads, Riggsbee and more—all a part of Chatham's history. Share what you know about places whose locations we've not learned.

On exhibit June-Oct 2018.

An exhibit in the display case highlighted new acquisitions in the CCHA collection.

Come spend a few hours exploring the museum this summer! We'll keep the air conditioning on for you!



Pittsboro High School 1923-1970

Class photos, band, clubs, athletic teams and more – covering much of Pittsboro High School's 47-year lifespan. Don't miss this great collection of photos and memorabilia! This display was up April through June 2018.

Additional PHS items were on display in the mobile display case in the museum.



Chatham County Fair...from the beginning



Artifacts from Chatham County's unique and long-lived county fair—which began as the Chatham County Colored Agricultural Fair—are the focus of this display. See photos, programs, news clippings, ribbons, and other memorabilia from this event, which is a testament to the talents and strengths of Chatham County's black community. Exhibited March 2018.

The Battle of Alamance

This exhibit recounts the history of the Battle of Alamance -- considered by some historians to be the first battle of the Revolutionary War. The Battle took place May 16, 1771, between the North Carolina Provincial Militia and the North Carolina Regulators. The Regulators were ordinary backcountry citizens—many of whom lived in what would become Chatham County. They believed citizens should regulate the government, and turned to armed rebellion after their petitions for relief from grievances imposed by corrupt



officials failed. Governor Tryon's position was the Regulators were in rebellion against their King, country, and laws. The Regulators were defeated in the battle and Governor Tryon took twelve prisoners—six of whom were later hung and six pardoned. For more about James Emerson, a Chatham patriot who was among the pardoned prisoners, [click here](#). Exhibited most of 2017.

Veterans' Day 2017: Honor and Be Inspired



Inspiring quotes by and about veterans. Exhibit on display for the month of November only.



Harvest History



Our September-October 2017 display highlights various aspects of Chatham's rich and diverse agricultural history. From plantations to sharecropping and from cornshuckings to harvest parades, you'll find an interesting collection of fall facts and recollections.

Our thanks to the following sources of information for this exhibit: NC Cooperative Extension, Library of Congress Farm Security Administration, Raleigh N&O *Past Times*, and the Chatham Community Library.



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. Exhibited 2016.

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