

## Our Followers' Favorite Chatham History Facebook Posts of 2018

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.  
Dear Santa—Please bring me a knife with a chain and pistol and caps, oranges, raisins, and candy.  
Yours truly,  
Alfred Hackney.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.  
Dear Santa—Please bring me some bananas, oranges, raisins, pencil, tablet, and knife with a chain.  
Yours truly,  
Robert Lee Hackney.

Siler City, N. C.  
Dec. 18, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I wish you would bring me an air rifle for Christmas. Please don't forget this.  
Lovingly,  
John Durham.

Bear Creek, N. C.,  
Dec. 9, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I saw so many letters to you from little girls and boys, I thought I too would write. I hope I am not too late. I am a little farm boy six years old and I live with my grandma. I want a little drum. I am a smart little boy for I help grandma feed the cows and hogs.  
Yours truly,  
Carlton Burke.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 8, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little girl ten years old and live with grandpa and grandma. I have been going to school and am in the fourth grade. I want you to bring me a pair of little scissors. Please don't forget it.  
Yours truly,  
Alice Poe.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.  
Dear Old Santa Claus—I am in the 6th grade and am eleven years old. I want a Billie goat for Christmas.  
Yours truly,  
Ellis Vestal.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little boy ten years old. You ought to know what a bad little boy needs. Please send me a sled if you have it.  
Yours truly,  
Garland Stout.

Pittsboro, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am in the fourth grade at school and I am eleven years old. I haven't decided what I want you to bring me but I know you will bring me something nice that will suit. I hope you will go to see all the children Christmas. I wish all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.  
Yours truly,  
Lauria Edith Clark.

Pittsboro, N. C.  
Dec. 9, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little boy eight years old and I want you to bring some fire crackers and fruits, nuts and candies, if you please. Hoping too see you soon. I wish you a merry Christmas.  
Sincerely yours,  
Farthing Clark.

Ore Hill, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little boy five years old. Please bring me a pair of blue gloves so I can help papa carry in wood this cold weather. Also bring me some candy.  
Your little friend,  
Clyde Dixon.

Ore Hill, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little boy seven years old. I live at Mt. Vernon Springs. Please bring me a pair of red gloves and candy and apples. I have a little sister, Rebecca; she wants a doll.  
Your friend,  
Max Dixon.

Pittsboro, N. C.,  
Dec. 10, 1917.  
Dear Santa—I am a little girl five years old. I want you to bring me a climbing monkey and a little rocking chair for me to rock my little brother, Walter Daffron, three months old. Also bring me nuts and fruit.  
Lovingly yours,  
Eulalia Clark.

Facebook has proven to be a handy way to share tidbits of Chatham County's varied history. But we know that not everyone uses Facebook, so we're sharing here a few of the posts that our followers seemed to find the most engaging in 2018.

Our most popular posts, by far, were several reproductions of **letters to Santa from Siler City youngsters in 1917**. Many people recognized the names of grandparents, parents, or aunts and uncles among the letter-writers. Others found the simplicity of many of the requests for gifts charming.

Indeed, the letters to Santa were less "serious" than some of our other topics, but represent Chatham history nonetheless. They gave a glimpse of popular culture, such as the nature of the gifts requested and the popularity of certain names among the children. Also striking was how many children told Santa that they lived with their grandparents.

Ore Hill, N. C.,  
Dec. 14, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little farm girl ten years old. I have a little doll bed and a cradle. My doll died. Oh! I want a doll so bad! I live with my grandma Fesmire, who is a subscriber to The Grit. Please don't forget my doll.

Yours Sincerely,  
Exie Sumner.

Ore Hill, N. C.,  
Dec. 14, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little farm boy seven years old and go to school. I would like for you to bring me a little cap pistol and caps so I can go rabbit hunting. I live with my grandma Fesmire, who is a subscriber to the paper. Please bring my pistol.

Yours Sincerely,  
Paul Sumner.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 13, 1917.

Dear Santa Claus—I am a little country boy nine years old. I go to school in town, and am in the second grade. I have a little dog and would like for you to send me an air rifle, also a watch that will keep time.

Yours Truly,  
Floyd Langley.

Goldston, N. C.,  
Dec. 13, 1917.

Dear Santa Claus—I am a little farm girl about twelve years old. I am writing for my little brother Bob and myself. He is only five years old and can't write so he asked me to write you to bring him a little lantern so he could go with papa o'possum hunting. I want a little doll bed.

Yours sincerely,  
Mollie Stinson.

Mt. Vernon Spgs., N. C.,  
Dec. 13, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little girl nine years old. I want you to bring me a box of writing paper, a painting book, and candy, and all kinds of nuts.

Your friend,  
Eugenia Lane.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 13, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little boy nine years old and go to school at Silk Hope. My teacher is Miss Rice. My papa is J. J. Johnson. Please bring me a little trunk like the little girls have to put my pencil and crayons in. Rt. 4.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 11, 1917.

Dear Old Santa—I want you to bring me a big doll with curly hair and which can go to sleep. I also want me a big rubber-tire tricycle. If you don't have too much to bring, Santa would you mind bringing me a Teddy Bear?

Your little friend,  
Kathleen Bullock.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 14, 1917.

Dear Santa Claus—I am a little farm boy seven years old. I want a stopper gun. Will you please bring it?

Yours sincerely,  
A. Ben Clapp.

Kernersville, N. C.,  
Dec. 15, 1917.

My Dear Santa Claus—I am a big boy nine years old. I am in the fifth grade. Santa, please bring me an electric train like one I saw at Reid's China store in Winston-Salem. There are several things I want but I will not be "greedy" as I want every child to have a present. Please rush things and get here strictly on time.

E. B. Parks Jr.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 8, 1917.

Dear Santa—If this snow lies on the ground till Christmas, I would like to have a sleigh and two Billy goats.

Yours truly,  
Wade Durham.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 16, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little farmer girl eleven years old. I want you to bring me a drawing book. Don't forget.

Yours truly,  
Cora Campbell.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 16, 1917.

Dear Santa—I will write you a few lines to let you know what I want. Please bring me a note book.

Yours truly,  
Douglass Campbell.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.

Dear Santa—Will you please come around and just leave me anything you can from apples down? I am a rowdy little boy going on the seventh round.

John Royall Covert.

Bennett, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little motherless boy eleven years old. Please take sister Edna a doll. Bring me anything you have; I am not hard to please. And dear Santa, please bring Long Shanks something.

Lovingly yours,  
Archie Lee Siler.

Bear Creek, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.

Dear Santa—I am a little boy nine years old. I go to school and am in the fifth grade. I want you to bring me a watch and a chain, some apples and candy. My little brother Archie wants a French harp and some apples and candy. My little sister wants a doll and bed and my little brother wants a rattler.

Your friend,  
Garland Norwood.

Siler City, N. C.,  
Dec. 17, 1917.

Our Dear Old Santa—We are three little girls. Hope you will please remember to come our way on Christmas eve. We should like very much to have a few toys, fruits, and candies, but if you do not have enough for us we would rather you would give them to the ones who need them most; thanking you very much.

Mary, Margarette and Lina Wren.

All letters to Santa from  
19 Dec 1917, *Siler City Grit*

Also generating a lot of likes, comments, and shares was our post about **How Chicken Bridge Got Its Name**. We simply shared a photo and sent folks to our website for the answer. If you're curious, here's the link:

<http://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/TheDayChickenBridgeGotItsName.pdf>



**Chatham Historical Museum**

October 15, 2018 · 🌐



How did Chicken Bridge get its name? You old-timers will know. If you haven't heard the story, see Barbara Pugh's article on the Chatham County Historical Association website to find out. Everyone is likely to learn something here about the history of the bridge.

<http://chathamhistory.org/.../TheDayChickenBridgeGotItsName.p...>



Other posts covered topics as diverse as fashion, giant turnips, letters from soldiers, recipes, beekeeping, JELL-O, classy cars, the influenza epidemic, Naked Lady Lilies, Bell's School, White Daisy Flour, the Bonlee Depot, inventions, early furniture, local baseball teams, Hoosier cabinets, and more!

Followers also used our Facebook page to keep up with Chatham Historical Association events, such as programs and fundraisers, and resources, such as Chatham County school yearbooks, our African-American funeral program collection, and our cemetery project.

Follow us on Facebook for an almost-daily dose of Chatham history!

