

Temporary Exhibits

The courthouse hallways house a number of temporary exhibits available to museum visitors. These changing exhibits highlight various aspects of Chatham County History. Currently on display:

Only the Smokehouse Remains



Our June-August 2017 exhibit, Only the Smokehouse Remains, displays 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.

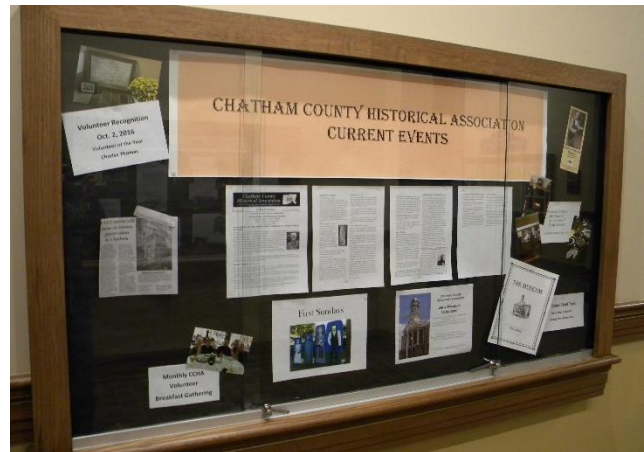
CCHA is grateful for the community interest in the project and for the financial contributions received from community businesses, organizations, and individuals to date. We offer special thanks for generous financial and in-kind donations from the James Milton Johnson & Laura Blair Johnson Trust, North 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.](#)

CCHA's Current Events

If you're in the Historic Courthouse and wonder what the Chatham County Historical Association is up to, check out the Current Events display.

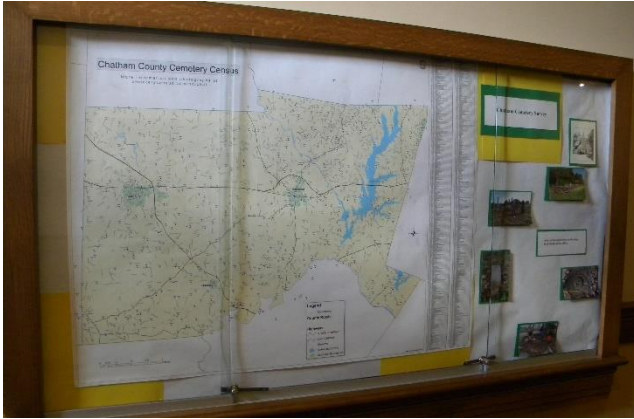


The Battle of Alamance

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 man who was among the pardoned prisoners, [click here](#).



Chatham Cemetery Map Exhibit



The Chatham Cemetery Map in the courthouse hallway shows the locations and names of all known cemeteries in Chatham County. If you know of a cemetery that doesn't appear to be on the map, please let us know! Our goal is to document every gravesite in the county. To learn more about our Chatham Cemetery Survey, [click here](#).

Contact us at
CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org

Chatham Courthouse Fire 2010



In recent years, one of the most significant historical events in Chatham County was the 2010 courthouse fire. This exhibit tells the story of the fire and the subsequent reconstruction of the courthouse in pictures.

The fire began in the attic on March 25, 2010 due to a construction accident during a renovation of the structure. Firefighters battled the blaze for several days. The interior of the building was extensively damaged, but the heavy masonry walls were found to be structurally sound.



The building's significance to the community was evident in the strong desire that residents expressed to have the building restored rather than replaced. County officials acted on that wish and the courthouse was reconstructed over the next two years. It reopened in April of 2013, housing CCHA's office and museum on the first floor and a courtroom on the upper floor.



Mobile Display Cabinet

The museum's mobile display cabinet is made from mahogany from the historic courthouse that survived the fire in 2010. It was designed and built by CCHA volunteer Rouse Wilson III and contains items from the Museum's Collection. The display changes as the archivist accepts new artifacts into the collection.

As of spring 2017 the cabinet includes part of the sale list from the estate of Col. Mial Scurlock, a pig doorstep that survived the Courthouse fire, and a turpentine tool, among other items.

