



CCHA Newsletter



Volume 21 — Issue 1

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First Quarter 2009

CCHA HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008 - BY BARBARA PUGH - PRESIDENT

Board of Directors:

New board members Tommy Emerson, Barbara Perry, and Raeford Bland were elected and welcomed at the annual meeting in February 2008. Each brings special talents to the Board. At the end of 2008 our Director Jane Smith declined continued Board involvement; we appreciate her past work and will miss her at our Board meetings but know that she is nearby and still interested and active. Bob Crowley has served as a Board Member and Vice President and taken on many responsibilities and tasks for us. He is rearranging his work schedule and activities and wishes to step aside from those offices but will continue as an active supporter and worker. There is no doubt that Bob will continue to use every minute of his time involved with something; we welcome his participation and talents in the Association. The whole Board gets high marks and a sincere thanks for their efforts.

Membership:

Our mailing list, now numbering 259, includes 149 family and individual members, now combined in a "basic" membership, 56 patrons, 3 corporate members, and 2 students. Ten life members and 39 complimentary memberships. About 150 members live within fifty miles of Pittsboro, another 50 within North Carolina, and 43 out of state. Invite your friends to become supporters of local history and become involved personally by volunteering for one or more of our activities. It is hoped that we will be able to increase our email addresses for members to facilitate a quicker avenue for communications.

Cemetery Survey:

Beverly Wiggins continues as our cemetery coordinator. The inventory of Chatham cemeteries and gravesites is an ongoing goal as well as protection of known existing cemeteries. Crises emerged as developers damaged a cemetery in northeastern Chatham and threatened a tombstone near US 15-501 and Briar Chapel development. The former was re-

located and the latter more carefully protected, while the crises served to draw attention to the need for preservation. The importance of CCHA's work was underscored as new cemetery sites were identified and inventories made of previously reported sites.

With partial support from CCHA, Bev Wiggins and Edith Calhoun attended a cemetery conservation workshop and brought back handouts, information, and enthusiasm.

Communications:

Quarterly newsletters were published with articles about cemetery preservation, programs presented, and other current news. Two issues of the Chatham Historical Journal covered the topic of Hatch's grist mill on Roberson Creek. It is the goal of the association to routinely provide quarterly newsletters to keep our members informed of Association activities and items of historic significance.

Delayed but nearing distribution is a collection of Fred Vatter's articles from the County Line; in progress is the expanded edition of Wade Hadley's out-of-print "Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company;" and in planning are a facsimile reissue of 20 years of the Chatham Historical Journal and a combination DVD of "Land Beneath the Waters" and "Our Land, Our Lives," documentary videotapes of the New Hope River Valley and Jordan Lake.

Redesign of the website was accomplished in midyear by Bob Crowley and consultant Sandy Beach. Our website provides a route for material orders, genealogy inquiries, and as an information source.

Museum:

Opening the museum and courthouse on the first Sunday from April through October increased the number of visitors to the museum to more than 250 in 2008. New exhibits in the adjoining conference room replaced those dating from the museum's opening. In response to frequently-asked questions, they describe the 1750s'

settlement and later formation of Chatham County and the history of the courthouse.

Temporary exhibits described county cemeteries and grave markers, Armistice Day, the Oval Oaks washboard, Siler City artifacts, and old-fashioned ballots and ballot boxes.

Two DVDs prepared and given by Duane Hall, "Photographs of People and Places in Siler City from 1895-1965" and a 1963 film promoting industrial development in Siler City coordinated with the CCHA support of the Siler City photographic exhibit of photos which had been collected, edited, printed and displayed at an exhibit at the Chatham Camera Club.

Other additions to the museum holdings include the original minutes book of the County Board of Health, 1911-1919, from Board of Health director Holly Coleman; colonial summons signed by William Hooper and a 1912 letter to Register of Deeds Lemuel Johnson gifted by Jane Hinnant; a facsimile copy of Ady Cotten's account book, 1858, and scans of early 20th century photographs from Betty Lou Ferrell; a 1912-era Erector set, cigar press, child's pocketbook, antique typewriter, and Civil War coding machine from Jane Pyle; 1966 snapshot of Pittsboro and 1980 yearbook from Northwood High School from Barbara Pugh; audiotape of his lecture on apples from Lee Calhoun; sample pages from 1933 tax lien docket, register of fees, and several rubber stamps from Register of Deeds Treva Seagroves; and copy of "Governor Manly's Quick Step" and other early 19th-century sheet music from bound volumes belonging to Anna Hill Stith from Thurman Maness.

Preservation:

At year's end the fate of three historic houses in Pittsboro was still in limbo after construction of a new county judicial center was put on hold pending improved economic conditions. The historic houses were not included in plans for the new center and must be moved with arrangements by

(Continued on page 2)

CCHA Lecture Series presents:

Conversation with Perry W. Harrison

Retired Superintendent
Chatham County Schools - 1967 to 1994

Sunday - 15 February 2009
2:30PM

Admission is FREE

Light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Chatham County Courthouse
“In the Circle”
12 East Street
Pittsboro, NC 27312

(The Chatham County Courthouse is located in the center of the traffic circle in the downtown historic district of Pittsboro, NC.)

Perry Harrison is one of the most respected people in all of Chatham County, having served as Superintendent of Chatham County Schools during a period of change, development, and growth here in the county and across the nation.

His tenure, guiding the development of young minds in Chatham County, spanned a period of great transformation of attitudes and institutions throughout the land, and gave him a unique perspective on all the events of the day. We are privileged to have him share his first-hand thoughts and observations about this extremely historic period of our history with us, many of the events of that time sending echoes to this very day.

Mr. Harrison was born in 1931 near Rural Hall, NC. He attended Duke University, moving to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for his Masters. He began his career as an educator as Science teacher at King High School in Surrey County Schools, eventually moving to the job of Principal at the now closed Efland School. He took on the position of Superintendent of Chatham County Schools in 1967, retiring from there in 1994.

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the owner, Chatham County. The CCHA supported a local developer who was expected to move the buildings before construction.

The Manly Law Office continues to be under CCHA's watchful eye with a lot of focus being provided by Mr. Harvey Gunter.

Corkey Harris was appointed to serve on a town advisory committee planning renovations and uses of the Pittsboro Community House, a historic structure built in 1935.

A request by Preston Development for a historical assessment of a large area east and south of Pittsboro prompted a task force to do preliminary research and make recommendations for a detailed assessment. The report was completed in November.

Programs and Events:

The annual meeting in February featured representatives from three of the many service organizations in Chatham County: Kiwanis Club of Pittsboro, Lions Club of Siler City, and Silk Hope Ruritan. In May John Clauser revisited CCHA to describe the southern tradition of burial and cemeteries, and he was joined by Bev Wiggins with a slide presentation of these traditions in Chatham County. In August Lee Calhoun told about his searches and research into old varieties of apples. In November Rob Barnes gave examples of how Chatham has participated directly in state and national historical events. Three of our programs this year were held in the Historic Courthouse but we moved to the country to the Ruritan Old Fashioned Farmers Day Barn at Silk Hope so that Lee Calhoun's symbolic distribution of apple seeds would be closer to earth contact.

Community Events:

In other activities, CCHA in the Spring set up an exhibit of historic buildings in Siler City at the Arts Incubator; at Fourth of July CCHA purchased and flew red, white, and blue bunting from the second-story rails of the Historic Courthouse; in the Fall had a booth at the Pittsboro Street Fair featuring old Historic ballots and an old ballot box; and rounded out the year by riding a mule-drawn wagon in the Pittsboro Christmas parade.

Bring a Friend to CCHA

Cemetery Project 20 Years Old And Going Strong

It was 1989, twenty years ago this year, the CCHA began in earnest its effort to identify and inventory all of the hundreds of cemeteries in the county. Thanks to the help and cooperation of many Chatham County community members, that effort has been a major success. More than 600 cemeteries, mostly small family plots, have been located in the county and the tens of thousands of individual burials those sites contain have been recorded and are available for searching by family researchers at www.cemeterycensus.com.

You might think that we could now declare the cemetery project finished, but

that's not the case. Previously unidentified gravesites continue to be discovered in the county, and other identified sites still need to be inventoried or monitored, giving the CCHA cemetery team plenty to do. We'll be reporting on some of our recent discoveries in upcoming newsletters.

Progress on the cemetery project is possible only with the generous assistance of many community members, telling us about sites we may overlooked, guiding us to remote sites that we would never find on our own, or giving us access to sites on their property. Some of the many folks have helping in recent months include:

Rusty Ammons	Tommy Emerson	Danny Mitchell
Mitch Barron	Steve Esthimer	Raeford Oldham
Cliff Beasley	Henry Fike	Cindy Perry
J.C. Bray	Tom Glendinning	Michael Poe
Dennis Brooks	Randy Goodman	Rodney Rover
Lillie Brooks	Burnice Griffin	Joe Smith
Charles Broyles	Greg Horton	Jennie Beavers Stewart
Carrie Burnette	Rufus Johnson	Robbie Swain
John Burnette	Norman Jordan	Charles Thomas
Marva Burnette	Kathy Lee Jucker	Taylor White
Linda Cooper	Ann Justice	Julius Woody
Charles Eliason	Wilber & Therese Lutterloh	

In addition, special thanks are due to David Peterson, who works behind the scenes to maintain the now massive database that holds all of our cemetery information; to Allen Dew, who provides internet access to our cemetery data through his cemeterycensus.com website; and to Lynn Richardson and Keith Megginson, with the county planning department, who work closely with us to make sure that develop-

ers let us know about cemeteries on their property.

Dr. Kevin Donald, head of the state's cemetery survey effort, tells us that he often uses Chatham County's cemetery project as a model. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to working with the community to record even more Chatham gravesites in the 2009.

Chatham County Historical Assn. 2008 Income and Expenses and 2009 Budget

	2008	2009
Income:		
Donations, General	1,368	1,000
Museum Computer & Software	2,000	0
Membership Dues	3,905	3,800
Publication Sales & Shipping	1,817	4,050
Sales Tax Refunded	105	200
Interest Income	5,390	1,600
Other	77	0
Total Income	14,662	10,650
Expenses:		
General Operating	3,817	2,615
Publications	1,282	5,030
Manly Office Maint.	150	150
Museums & Archiving	579	300
Programs	466	1,200
Special Projects	1,475	1,355
To Reserves	3,000	0
Total Expenses	10,769	10,650
Checking		
Opening Balance	5,834	3,752
Closing Balance	3,752	0
Reserves		
Opening Balance	97,003	105,512
Closing Balance	105,512	0
Total Cash Accounts	109,264	109,264
Obligations on Reserve		-26,756
Cash Available		82,508

Publication sales income and expenses are budgeted significantly higher in 2009 because of anticipated publication of Fred Vatter's book.

Special projects include ongoing cemetery survey, a museum internship, and a new effort to develop historical resources for local schools.

Obligations against reserves include our \$25,000 pledge to the new library for the local history area, and the balance of restricted donations.

Hats Off to the Museum Volunteers For 2008

Lois Moore	Charles Thomas	Elizabeth Hains
Michael McCormick	Elsie Cunningham	Rachel Whitehead
Rebecca Yount	Fred Vatter	Kay Judge
Margaret Tiano	Jane Pyle	Barbara Pugh
Carol Hall	William Ray Arthurs	Candace Burke

Special Donors 2008

Larry and Avis Autry	Peterson Family Fund
Chatham Park Investors	Wren Foundation

CCHA 2009 EVENTS

Museum Wednesdays

The CCHA Chatham County Museum of history in the historic Chatham County Court House is open every Wednesday from 12:00PM to 3:00PM.

First Sundays

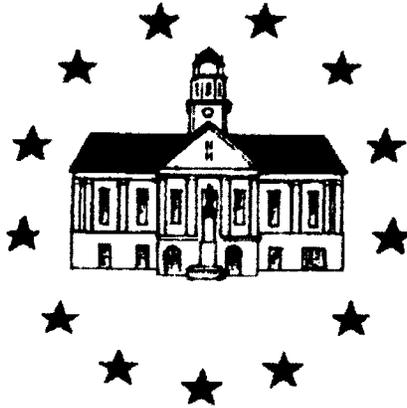
The CCHA Chatham County Museum of history in the historic Chatham County Court House will be open from 1:00PM to 4:00PM the first Sunday of the month, April through November.

CCHA History Lecture Series

Lectures and presentations on various facets and subjects of Chatham County history are scheduled for the third Sunday of February, May, August and November. All will begin at 2:30PM on these dates.

Meet Chris Poston: We are delighted to introduce Chris Poston. Chris has agreed to serve with the Board in 2009. A young man, he is a fine product of Chatham County, raised here by Sam and Dot, a well-known family in Pittsboro. He was active and respected during his tenure at Pittsboro schools and Northwood High School and involved in Student Government. His tenure at Guilford College led to his career in teaching at Elon Elementary. He lives in Chatham with his wife and three young children.

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



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