



# CCHA Newsletter



Volume 25 — Issue 1

Editor: R.T.Crowley - CROWLEY1948@GMAIL.COM

First Quarter 2013

## EXPECTED COURTHOUSE REOPENING CREATING EXCITEMENT

By Barbara Pugh - CCHA President

Three years of planning, design, construction, anticipation, challenges, resolutions, and heightened expectations for the historic 1881 Chatham County Courthouse are close to fruition. Be there on Saturday, April 20, 2013 for the expected reopening and dedication. It is going to be a big day and a busy day in Pittsboro. Building completion is anticipated during March.

Currently recommendations are being taken and decisions made about the schedule of events, speakers, music, traffic control, and all the other issues to be resolved with handling a large crowd for such a special event. We hope you will come. Mark your calendar!

The public opening of the Chatham County Historical Museum will occur on that day as well! Our museum is on schedule to be ready.

You, our members and donors, made our Museum possible. Over 300 identified donors made our museum a real gift of the people. Everyone having worked to make the museum a reality is very happy you have supported the project in such a generous way and we hope you will be proud of the results. As President of CCHA, I want you to know how much you are appreciated. We could not have done it without you.

Our plans are to have something special for our members and donors. We are planning to have an invitation-only event for you whereby we can visit and examine our museum in a much more relaxed manner. We will let you know of the date we select. We are reluctant to schedule it before the Grand Reopening but you will be given plenty of notice. By the time of our annual meeting on February 24, we may have a date firmed up.

Start planning those summer visits with family and friends. When you are not visiting, do you think it would be enjoyable to be a volunteer and share the history of Chatham with others? I look forward to seeing you all there.

Barbara Pugh  
President, CCHA



THE RESTORED CLOCK TOWER ON THE 1881 CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE IS NEARING COMPLETION AND SHOWING OFF THE BUILDING'S ORIGINAL PAINT COLORS.

Want more photos of the courthouse restoration? Go to:  
<http://blog.hobbsarchitects.com/2013/02/05/pittsboro-courthouse-restoration-update-2-05-13/>

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of CCHA will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2013, at the Chatham Memorial Library in Pittsboro. Annual meeting agenda, reports, and documents will be printed and made available for pick-up at the meeting. These items will include year-end financials, budget, committee reports. The Nominations Committee will report at the meeting; directors and officers will be elected for the coming year.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND HISTORIC LECTURE  
TRADITIONAL STRING MUSIC IN CHATHAM COUNTY, 1930-2012**

**Sunday - February 24, 2013 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
Chatham Memorial Library  
197 NC Highway 97  
Pittsboro, NC 27312**

The Chatham County Historical Association Annual Meeting will feature a real treat for all of us. Tommy Edwards, a fellow "Chathamite," recognized authority, accomplished musician, and dear friend of CCHA will present a program he has entitled "Traditional String Music in Chatham County, 1930-2012." We are sure this event will be as much music as lecture, so you do not want to miss it!



Tommy Edwards is a bluegrass and folk musician, singer, songwriter and radio show host from central North Carolina. He is a retired history teacher, coach and administrator in the North Carolina Public School System. For the past 40 years he has played and recorded professionally with The Bluegrass Experience, one of the Southeast's most respected groups and has more recently combined with vocalist and bassist Alice Zincone and banjo master Rick Lafleur to create the "super trio" *Carolina Lightnin'*. A former two-time

World's Champion Bluegrass Guitarist, Edwards is also proficient on mandolin and banjo both of which he plays with *The Leroy Savage Group*. He also appears from time to time in two man shows with Doc Watson's long time accompanist Jack Lawrence. As a songwriter, he has been honored by having his songs recorded by several North Carolina bands including *Molasses Creek*, *Shady Grove*, *The Brothers in Bluegrass*, *Kicking Grass*, and *The Bluegrass Experience*. He has recorded four band albums and five solo projects, several receiving critical acclaim in national publications. He and/or his music have been the subject of many articles in a variety of publications, most recently in the January issue of *Our State Magazine*.

His original music has been featured in several diverse settings as well as in his own recordings. He is considered an authority on bluegrass music and has been invited numerous times by William Ferris to present traditional music history programs for the *Center for the Study of the American South* at the *University of North Carolina* at Chapel Hill, UNC Music Department and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has written for *Southern Cultures* and presented lectures on aspects of folk culture at *The North Carolina Pottery Center* and at other venues in the state. His radio program "Bluegrass Saturday Night" has been broadcast for five years at WLHC in Sanford, NC and has recently been added to the schedule of WRHC in Rocky Mount, NC.

He lives in Pittsboro, North Carolina in a National Register home that he and his wife, Cindy, restored.

**CCHA Partial Calendar for 2013**

Wednesdays Open Museum Day 12:00PM to 3:00PM

First Sundays Open Museum Day 12:00PM to 3:00PM

First Tuesdays History Sharing Group - Contact Kay Judge

**MORE COURTHOUSE PHOTOS**

We are all so pleased over the restoration of the historic Chatham County Courthouse we thought we would share a few more photos with you.



**ON NOVEMBER 3, 2012 THE CUPOLA  
FRAME WAS PLACED.**



As we hope you saw on page one, a lot more has happened since these photos were taken, and we look forward to even more as the reopening approaches.

## CHATHAM SEEKS MEMORIES AND TRIBUTES FOR REOPENING OF HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

The Grand Reopening of the 1881 Chatham County Courthouse will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, with several events planned throughout the day, including tours and official public opening of the Chatham County Historical Association museum in the morning and a special ceremony in the afternoon.

More details about the event will be provided in early March. "However, we want residents to know now that they are invited to celebrate the restored courthouse by submitting their personal tributes," said Debra Henzey in the County Manager's Office. The deadline is March 30, 2013.

The county wants residents to put their own stamp on their submissions, which could be messages, poems, memories, graphic image, short stories, drawings, or photographs that can be displayed. People should be careful to avoid terms or images that could be offensive to any group.

"We ask that the submissions be your personal tribute to the courthouse, past, present or future, and this might include a special memory," Henzey said. "We ask that the tributes not be solely focused on fire itself, but take a broader and more personal view in their tributes."

Limitations for submissions are:

- No more than **TWO** single-sided pages for handwritten or printed items. The paper should be no larger than letter size (8.5x11)
- No more than 120 square inches total for artwork (painting or drawing), but does not require formal mounting.
- No more than three photographs submitted in clear protective sleeves and

none should be larger than 8x10 each.

Space permitting, the items will be displayed in glass cases in the courthouse that are provided by the Chatham County Historical Association. A few items may be selected by an information committee to highlight during the afternoon ceremony in the restored second floor courtroom.

"People should keep a copy of their submissions, because we plan to give what we collect to the Historical Association for their records as part of the courthouse's rich history," Henzey said.

Items should be delivered or postmarked no later than Saturday, March 30, 2013. They can be mailed or delivered in person:

MAIL:

Debra Henzey  
County Manager's Office  
Post Office Box 1809  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

DELIVERY:

Debra Henzey  
964 East Street  
Room 209  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
(above the YMCA)

If you have a question about the submissions, contact Debra Henzey at

Debra.Henzey@ChathamNC.org

"We are excited to see what people can do with this challenge," Henzey said. "People have expressed a need to pay tribute or to share a special memory. This is a creative way to do so."

Debra J. Henzey  
Director of Community Relations  
Chatham County, NC

## DESIGN DIMENSION

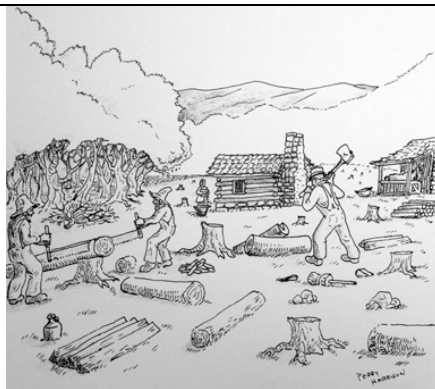
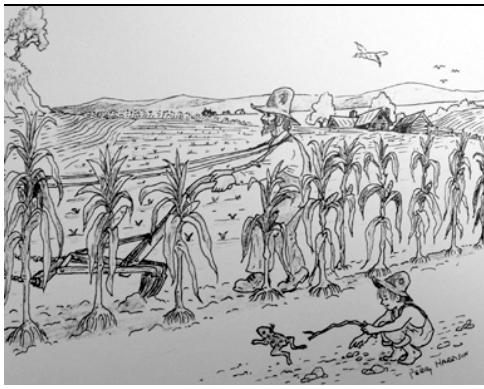
The good folks at *Design Dimension*, the designers of the new Chatham museum facilities inside the restored courthouse, let us have a peek over their shoulders as they build the elements destined to become parts of the exhibits.



EARLY STEPS IN THE FABRICATION OF THE EXHIBIT ARE REVIEWED IN A VISIT TO DESIGN DIMENSION. A FIRST GLIMPSE AT THE SECTION HEADERS.



BUILDING A ONE-CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE.



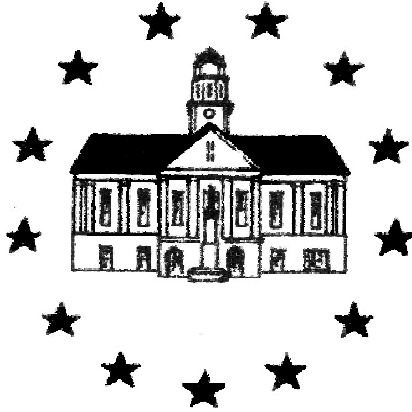
**Bring a Friend to  
CCHA**

Sometimes an editor just runs out of material and has to fill. These two drawings by Perry Harrison are in the museum.

We are all now eagerly looking forward to seeing these items and all the rest in place at the museum when it is finished. Be sure to visit as soon as possible.

These exhibits are being designed to tell the whole story of Chatham County from the moment it was established by the State of North Carolina to the present day. In planning and visiting them, we should always bear in mind history does not stop. What we do today instantly becomes the history we will know tomorrow.

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



**CCHA Newsletter**

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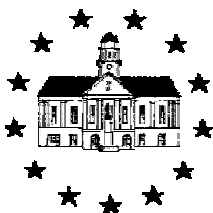
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