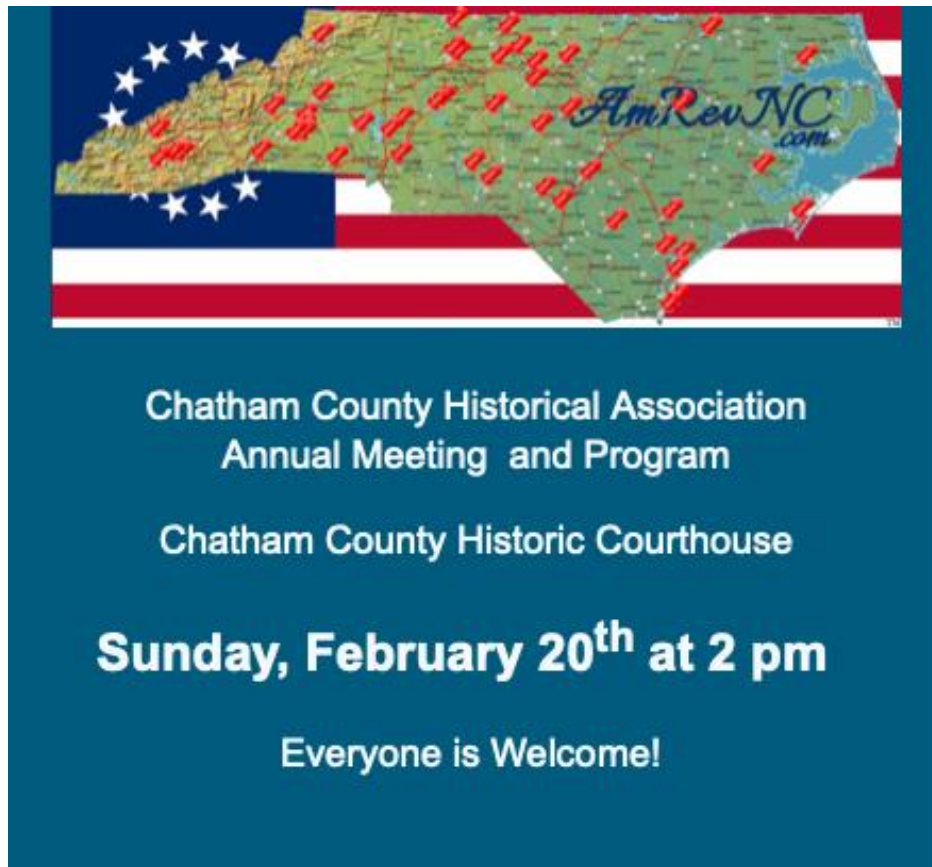


# Chatham County Historical Association Newsletter

Volume 34, Issue 1 January 2022



## ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

The next Program will be **Sunday, February 20th at 2 pm**, followed by the annual meeting.

Mark your calendar to join us in the Courtroom of the Historic Courthouse at 9 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro.

**Jim Morgan**, author of the online guide [AmRevNC.com](http://AmRevNC.com), will present on The Regulators.

As always the program is free. Masks are required in the county building. For more information see the website: [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org).

## Special Exhibits: New Black History Exhibits at the Museum



### Come Visit! New Exhibit!

Come visit! Our new exhibits include a timeline that puts some Chatham history in context. Find your birthday on the timeline and learn what was going on in Chatham at that time. Or tell us what surprises you most about the sequence of events. Check out the artifacts and information in the display case inside the museum and the display that features pictures and biographies of some of Chatham's notable black citizens. How many do you know about? The exhibit on Lewis Freeman, an early free black resident of Pittsboro is still on display in the Gallery.

Thanks to several community members for assisting with information for this exhibit. CCHA appreciates community members gathering, preserving, and sharing Chatham County history with the rest of the community!

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## Welcome to the new Chatham County Historical Association newsletter.

CCHA transitioned to a new website (where there is new information monthly) which allows a more robust newsletter. However, there is a learning curve for the volunteers who generate it. If you have experience with creating newsletters and would like to help, please contact Cindy Schmidt at [Museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Museum@chathamhistory.org).

## Thank You for your 2022 Membership

We're grateful for your continued support and your online payment saves funds that can be devoted to the projects in this newsletter. If you haven't yet renewed, please visit our website to renew online or by mail: <https://chathamhistory.org/Renew-Your-Membership>

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# Manly Law Office News



The Manly Law Office was the Pittsboro law office of Charles Manly who was the 31st Governor of North Carolina from 1849-1851. The Law Office can be toured by request.

Call 919-542-6222 and leave us a message to schedule!

The Manly Law office is getting a foundation make over!

CCHA has contracted with a local specialist to add concrete footers, three laminated girders and jacks beneath the building that will allow us to return the building to approximately square. Once the building resettles into its former shape, we will start the process of replacing the front and back doors.

The Preservation Hill Questers, #1497, are providing some of the funding for the foundation work. The rest will come from donations. To be part of the project contact us at [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org).

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## Lewis Freeman Park Funded



A group of officials, park committee members, and interested citizens met last year at the site of the future Lewis Freeman Park in Pittsboro to kick off plans for the park, which will honor the life of early Pittsboro resident, Lewis Freeman. Freeman, a free man of color, owned the land slated for the park along with several other town lots. The Chatham County Historical Association was instrumental in researching Freeman's life and has supported the park proposal. Land for the park was donated to the town by the family of the late Jane Pyle,

who lived in Freeman's former residence, which is now the offices of Hobbs Architects. The



Town of Pittsboro has committed \$100,000 to the park and construction will begin as soon as the construction documents can be finalized.

To learn more about Lewis Freeman, visit the Museum exhibit about this freed man who lived from ~1775 to 1843 and owned real estate in downtown Pittsboro.

## Picture Rail Project

CCHA has begun a project to put more of the Collection on display in the Historic Courthouse.

The County has given permission to install a picture rail (like the one pictured here) in the Gallery.

The bids are coming in. The Johnson Trust will be providing some of the funding. If you'd like to be a part of this project - let us know at [History@chathamhistory.org](mailto:History@chathamhistory.org).



## Museum Timeline Project

The Museum opened in 2013 with one wall depicting the Chatham County timeline. The last images and text on the timeline are from the 1960s - which is the panel and rail pictured on the left. We'd like to add more recent history to the timeline.

CCHA and Mike Peluso, the Information Technologies Professor at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, have teamed up to provide his students with a real world I.T. need and a real world solution for the Museum.

In the fall semester of 2021 five of Mike's students gathered business requirements for an automated timeline driven by a touch screen with CCHA content. The students did the research for the hardware and software and provided a presentation that included options for a touchscreen and options

for a processor that would run one of several potential timeline software applications. The students got to use the skills taught in class to go through the I.T. project steps to generate and deliver the presentation for the client, CCHA.

This spring semester three of Mike's students are following up with that real- world project by generating the final product. The touchscreen timeline will be installed on the rail (on the lower right) in the above picture of the timeline wall in the Museum.

If you're interested in this project, let us know at [museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:museum@chathamhistory.org). If you're interested in financially supporting this project, we'd love to have your donation at [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org)

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## On-Going Projects

- Digitizing the pictures and documents in the Collection for sharing.
- A volunteer is doing an architecture survey of various buildings in Chatham County - the write ups are going on the website.
- The Fourth Grade Field Trip continues twice a month on Thursday mornings through May. It takes 10 volunteers to guide the fourth grade students through all four stations - if you'd like to join us email [volunteers@chathamhistory.org](mailto:volunteers@chathamhistory.org) and have a great time with the fourth graders or contact us at [Museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Museum@chathamhistory.org).
- If you find a cemetery not on [CemeteryCensus.com](http://CemeteryCensus.com), let us know at [CemeterySurvey@Chathamhistory.org](mailto:CemeterySurvey@Chathamhistory.org).



### The Last Volunteer Pot Luck was Christmas!

All the volunteers regularly get together to enjoy each others company and food.

If you want to get involved in preserving or sharing Chatham County History, please join us!

Email: [Volunteers@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Volunteers@chathamhistory.org)

The next Pot Luck will be Valentines!



Website: [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org)

Email: [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org)

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC 919-542-6222

Museum Open Year Around: Wed, Thurs, Fri. 11-4