

# Chatham County Historical Association Newsletter

Volume 34, Issue 2

March 2022



## Got Rocks?

**Chatham Rocks and Minerals Identification opportunity this  
Sunday, April 3rd from noon to 4 pm at the Museum**

Come meet Chris Palmer and bring your Chatham County rocks and minerals!

If you've collected some Chatham County specimens and want to know more about them, come to the Museum during First Sunday, April 3rd, from noon to 4 pm. Chris has over 40 years of practical geology, engineering geology and hydrogeology experience. Learn where your rock fits into the bedrock, landscape, mining and energy resources of Chatham County. Look at your rock with Chris through a magnification lens and see what make up the parts of your rock!

For more information see the website: [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org).

## Short Term Exhibit Chatham County Geology



### Come Visit! New Exhibit up April 1st!

The new Short Term exhibits will be up April 1st. They explore the geology of Chatham County.

Geology is the study of the earth's physical structure - its soils, minerals, water tables and shape - all have an effect on our history and our lives.

Find out what soils are in Chatham County through soils maps.

Find out about mines in Chatham County through mine maps and see some of the artifacts from Chatham mines.

Find out about the rock cycle.

Find out how much and what kind of minerals are necessary to build and sustain your house.

Visit during First Sunday, April 3rd noon to 4 pm.

### 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>

# Spring Program!

## Chatham County Geology

### May 15th, 2 pm



How was the land that is now Chatham County formed?

Did you know that Chatham has experienced earthquakes and that there are volcanic rocks in the county?

What do you know about Chatham County coal, iron, or the history of mining in the county?

Join us Sunday, May 15th at 2 pm in the Historic Courthouse at 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro to hear Chris Palmer tell us the answers to these and other questions.

More info at: [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org).

**Chris Palmer** has over 40 years of practical geology, engineering geology and hydrogeology experience. He's taught a Duke's OLLY course on North Carolina Geology and has agreed to do a program on Chatham County geology.

Geology is the study of soils, minerals, and water. Listen as Chris talks about Chatham County's history via its soils, minerals, and water.

Mark your calendar to join us for the program, which, as always, is free.



Grim Hobbs with program Presenter Jim Morgan

## Annual Meeting:

The program by Jim Morgan, author of the online guide [AmRevNC.com](http://AmRevNC.com), was attended by about 50 people. Everyone enjoyed Jim's description of American Revolutionary War activities in North Carolina and specifically Chatham County.

The annual meeting was held directly after the program. Board of Directors, elected or reelected are: Dan Sundberg (President), Brantley Webster (VP), Lesley Richardson (Treasurer), Cindy Schmidt (Secretary), Grimsley Hobbs, Dennis Brooks, Ray Carney, June Price, Doug Berg, Charles Thomas, Walter Harris, and Ernest Parker.

## UPDATE: Picture Rail Project

With the County's permission the new picture rail has been installed in the Gallery. We'll keep you updated when the pictures are installed!!



IT LOOKS WONDERFUL!

John Young installed it and **The Johnson Trust** paid for it. Many thanks to **Gene Brooks** for helping with this effort to share Chatham County History!

## The Virtual Tour collaboration with Chatham School for Science and Engineering in Siler City Continues.



Ray Carney (left, with students) Grim Hobbs, Greg Stafford (below left, with students), and Cindy Schmidt took the students on a tour of the six locations they'll be highlighting in the first version of the virtual tour of Pittsboro. The Historic Courthouse, Blair Hotel, Mathiesen Clinic, Lewis Freeman house, Manly Law office, and the Yellow house will be included in the virtual tour the students are building. The first version should be available in June!



## The Museum welcomed about 30 students from The Hispanic Liaison.

The students were interested in Chatham County history including the Short-Term Exhibit on leaders of color. They spent about 2 hours and learned more about Chatham County.



## Fourth Grade Field Trip

This is the 8th year volunteers have welcomed Chatham County's fourth graders into the Museum and Historic Courthouse for a morning of history, civics, and government.

Every field trip the teachers and guests fill out a feedback form to let us know what they think.

Some of their comments:

"Loved the history lessons and the courtroom experience."

"The mock jury was incredible!"

"The program helps the kids become connected to their community."

"The entire experience was amazing!"

A teacher, "So much of our standards were addressed!"



*Students arriving for a morning of history, civics, and government!*

*Let us know if you'd like to participate. Email: [volunteers@chathamhistory.org](mailto:volunteers@chathamhistory.org)*

## 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
- If you find a cemetery not on [CemeteryCensus.com](http://CemeteryCensus.com), let us know at [CemeterySurvey@Chathamhistory.org](mailto:CemeterySurvey@Chathamhistory.org).



Website: [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org) Email: [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org)  
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Museum Open Year Around: Wed, Thurs, Fri. 11-4