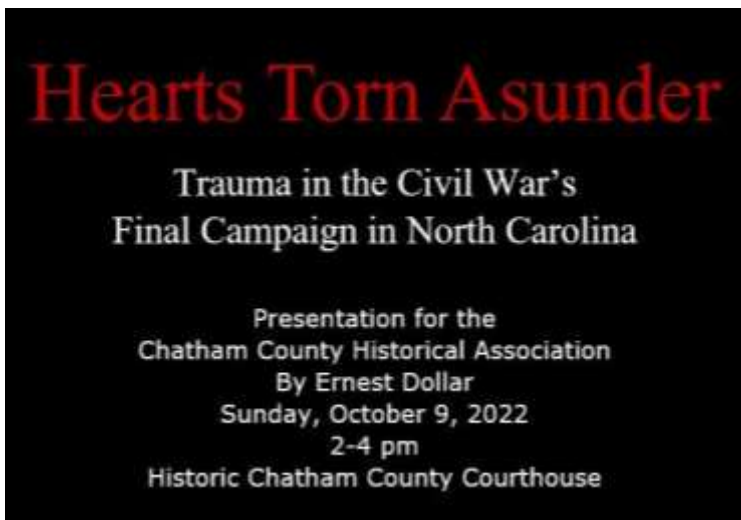




*Happy Fall, Y'all!*



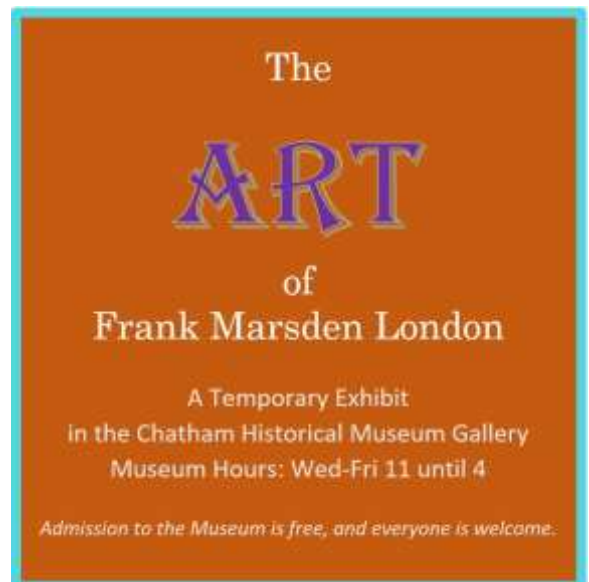
## Do Not Miss These Upcoming Events!



At this program, author and local historian Ernest A. Dollar will talk about the topic of his new book, *Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina*. Mr. Dollar will describe what happened in North Carolina during the little-written-about days after Appomattox, when, he says, the war was far from over. Using personal accounts from diaries and letters, he will explore the psychological experiences of soldiers and civilians during this dark time

and how these experiences changed lives forever. The program is free, and all are invited.

Exhibit coming soon: The ART of Frank Marsden London. Frank Marsden London was born in Pittsboro in 1876, the son of William Lord and Caroline Haughton London. He showed artistic promise as a child and attended UNC from 1893 to 1895. At nineteen, he left for New York City to study at the Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn. He later studied at the William Merritt Chase School of Art (subsequently called the NY School of Art). The Chatham County Historical Association collection includes a small landscape painting and two portraits. An excellent article about Frank Marsden London's life and work can be found on our website in two issues of the Chatham Historical Journal: Volume 5, #2 and #3.





## Summer Happenings at CCHA



The summer was full of activities! Our volunteers gave special tours, presentations, and met with visitors at various county events including Siler City Chicken Festival, and Constitution Day. CCHA had the opportunity to work with the Chatham Organizing for Racial Equality (CORE) to prepare an exhibit of Chatham County Black History for the Juneteenth Celebration at the County Fairgrounds.



CCHA volunteers joined descendants of the Willcox family to clean up the Willcox/Montgomery cemetery near Gulf, NC in southern Chatham County. The family is working to fence the site and erect signage recognizing the Revolutionary War contributions of the Willcox and Montgomery families.

CCHA members can help preserve family and county history by volunteering to photograph grave

markers and document some of Chatham County's 600 cemeteries. CCHA can point you to a church cemetery that needs to be photographed. Maybe you know of a family cemetery we do not even know of yet! Contact the Chatham County Historical Association to learn more about the Cemetery Project.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Chatham County Historical Association participated in the Briar Chapel Constitution Day Celebration. CCHA volunteer, Cindy Schmidt (pictured far right), informed more than fifty attendees about the history of Chatham County. Constitution Day recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and commemorates the signing of the document in Philadelphia, PA on September 17, 1787.



**Did you know** that we post daily snippets of Chatham County history on our Chatham Historical Museum Facebook page? Join our 4,800 followers and learn something new about our county—or share what you know!  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum/>

Our summer exhibit in the Chatham Historical Museum highlighted Chatham's geology-- the bedrock, landscape, soils, groundwater, mining, and energy resources in the county.

The exhibit was kicked off in April with a hands-on afternoon at the museum with retired professional geologist, Chris Palmer, and Chatham mining expert, Forest Hazel. In May, Chris Palmer presented a program describing how the land we're on—its shape, soils, minerals, and water tables—has profound effects on our lives and our history. If you missed it, see Chris's handout on our website.



## Preservation



CCHA's Preservation Committee Chair, Sy Robbins, has been hard at work consulting with the County, Pittsboro, and Siler City planning offices to ensure that Chatham's historic resources are recognized and documented or preserved. He devotes hundreds of hours to deed research to detail the history of parcels to be developed and has developed a checklist to facilitate collaboration between developers and CCHA. Learn more on our website: <https://chathamhistory.org/History-in-the-Path-of-Growth/>

The Chatham County Historical Association's website is designed to help members keep up with CCHA events and activities and to serve as an online archive for information about Chatham history. We add articles and original documents every month to our large collection of online research materials. Check back regularly for new information!  
<https://chathamhistory.org>

## Collections



Among the recent donations to CCHA's collection are several items donated by various members of the London family. W.L. "Skip" London donated two portraits painted by Frank Marsden London and a wooden key holder from an early Chatham hotel. Larry London, Jr. donated several old photographs of Pittsboro. Sallie Siegrist Sypher, a great-granddaughter of Henry A. and Bettie Jackson London, donated London and Jackson family photos, a servant genealogy, and a 1933 home movie of Pittsboro, along with the funds to digitize it. We will be sharing these items online and in museum exhibits in the coming days. The home movie is already on our YouTube channel. You can view it here: [https://youtu.be/F-Ut\\_Df0HMU](https://youtu.be/F-Ut_Df0HMU)



Also donated to CCHA this year is a fascinating letter written in November 1942 by Lamont Norwood to his mother. When Lamont's letter arrived in Chatham County in November of 1942, his mother was undoubtedly relieved to hear from him. She must have held her breath, though, after reading his first few sentences... *"Dear Mother, I sort of hesitate to tell about my recent experience, because it may start you to worrying about me, but on the other hand I have to make some explanation for the change of address, and if I made up some story you might see that it didn't look like the truth and become really worried. I am at a hospital now..."* In the following three and a half pages, Lamont details the harrowing account of the sinking of the ship he was aboard and three days at sea on a raft before being rescued. You can read the letter on our website, thanks to its donation to the Chatham County Historical Association collection by Richard Whitfield. Find the link to the letter in the "What's New" section of our home page: <https://chathamhistory.org>



Wren Memorial Library in Siler City has deaccessioned notebooks containing genealogy files created by W. Harold Broughton. The files were offered to CCHA and we are working to organize them and add them to the Local History and Genealogy Collection at Chatham Community Library.

Additions to CCHA's digital collection in recent months include more than 600 photos from the Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, NC and 73 African-American funeral programs, bringing the funeral program collection to more than 1000 items.



Eight Chatham County High School Yearbooks have been added to the yearbook collection and several more are currently being processed by our partner, the NC Digital Heritage Center. You can explore these collections from our home page.

Also added were three court summons signed by William Hooper, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the first Clerk of Court for Chatham County. Learn why the original documents were moved from CCHA's collection to the State Archives and see digital images from the link on our home page: <https://chathamhistory.org>



Website: <https://chathamhistory.org> Email: [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org)

9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC

919-542-6222



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