

Chatham County Historical Association Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue 2

March 2023



Smokehouse Dedication Saturday, March 25, 12:30

Remember the Smokehouse?

Many people helped with the preservation of this quintessential Chatham household building so younger generations can be shown how their ancestors lived using a living history building.

The Smokehouse was removed from the Ag Center site to make room for the new Ag Center building, then stored, rebuilt, and was scheduled to have a Dedication and Open House before COVID. Which didn't happen.

CCHA is now celebrating that Dedication and Open House of the Smokehouse Saturday, March 25th at 12:30 pm at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center and You're Invited!

Join us Saturday, March 25th which is the 4th Annual Spring Ag Fest at the Ag & Conf Center. The Spring Ag Fest celebrates Chatham County's agriculture, forestry, and natural resources with livestock area events, demonstrations, food and the Dedication of the historic Smokehouse at 12:30. The Ag Fest is free, the Dedication is free, and the address is 1192 Bus US-64 W, Pittsboro, NC 27312. The Ag Fest is from 10-2 with the Smokehouse Dedication at the Smokehouse at 12:30.

Since hams were once preserved in the Smokehouse, we're raffling off.....ham!

Join us in a Chatham County experience - you might even win some ham! For more information see the website: chathamhistory.org.

Next Program:

Reclaimed from the Flames!



Sunday, April 2nd 2pm
Historic Courthouse
9 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro

The Chatham County Courthouse burned March 25, 2010. It reopened April 20, 2013, as the Historic Courthouse with the Chatham County Museum.

2023 is the 10th Anniversary of the Historic Courthouse Reopening. Join us to hear Grimsley and Taylor Hobbs, the architects who rebuilt the building, talk about the process of reclaiming and restoring the building after the devastating fire that consumed the interior.

After the Program, join us downstairs for light refreshments to Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Reopening of the wonderful, restored building and Museum.

April 2nd is also First Sunday in downtown Pittsboro so there will be lots to do before and after the Program.



Thank You for your 2023 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>



Annual Program: Rednap Howell and Membership Meeting Recap

Dr. Ted Scott Henson, historian, portrayed Rednap Howell, a key leader of the Regulator Movement from about 1768 to 1771 at the annual CCHA Membership meeting on February 19th.

Dr. Henson was spellbinding, taking listeners back to the beginnings of the Regulator Movement--explaining why back-country Piedmont settlers had had enough of the corruption coming out of Gov. Tryon's government in New Bern and what they did about it. The Regulators were born from the idea that 'the people' regulated their government, not the opposite!

Rednap was at the battle of Alamance May 16, 1771 and became a fugitive for the rest of his life because of his participation. Gov. Tryon pardoned everyone involved except Rednap and one other. Dr. Henson's portrayal of Rednap was complete with recitations of poems written by Rednap.

Annual Meeting Recap:

After the program, CCHA President, Dan Sundberg led the annual meeting.

2022 Minutes and Financials were approved. As was the 2023 Budget.

A report of activities of CCHA was given to all attendees and can be found on the CCHA website.

New or reelected Board members are: Lesley Richardson, Dennis Brooks, Walter Harris and Jim Sizemore.

New or reelected officers are: Pres. Dan Sundberg, VP Brantley Webster, Sec. Cindy Schmidt, and Treasurer Allen Wilson.

If you have questions, more info can be found at: chathamhistory.org.

Thales Academy Thank You Notes

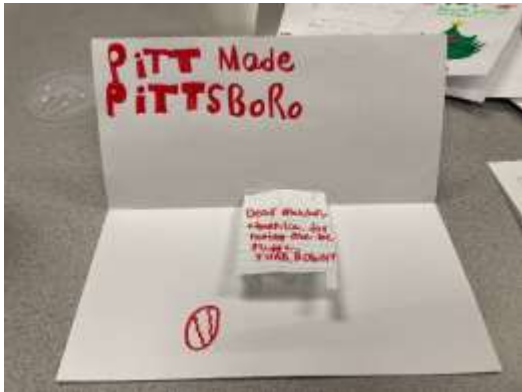


Thank you so much for teaching me so much things also thank you for making the teaching fun. Thank you so much! Thank you for volunteering and taking your time for us. My favorite thing was differently the part when we got to go up the court acting out the Gold E Locks.

Thales Academy came to a Fourth Grade Field Trip and sent Thank You notes to the CCHA volunteers for the experience. We thought we'd share some of the artwork and text with you!

The art is wonderful, and the sentiments were rejuvenating!

We're looking for more volunteers as we add home schools to the Field Trips. Email us at volunteers@chathamhistory.org

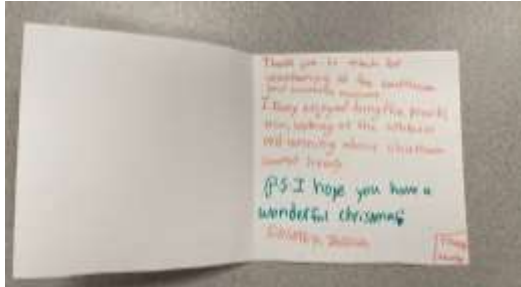


Pitt Made Pittsboro

Dear Museum, thank you for letting me be judge.



Dear "The Museum", Thank you. My favorite part was the trial. (let me be the judge next time please.) Now I THINK I know what I want to be when I grow up! (Hint: Judge). The Thales Group 1, Babe E. Bear

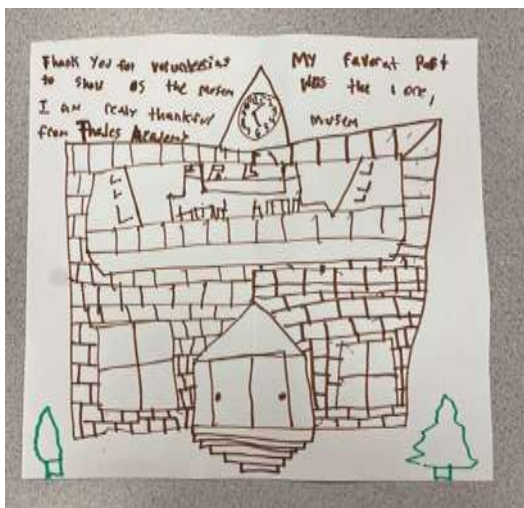


Thank you so much for volunteering at the courthouse and courthouse museum. I really enjoyed doing the 'mock' trial, looking at the artifacts and learning about Chatham County's history. PS I hope you have wonderful Christmas!



Thank you.

Thank You so much!



Thank you for volunteering to show us the Museum. I am really thankful from Thales Academy. My favorite part was the one Museum

These are just a few of the wonderful notes we got from the class!

We're grateful we can help students understand more about Chatham history.

New Gift Shop Items

Annie Bynum was a local artist who painted many pictures of Pittsboro. We've turned one of them into a nice print. \$5 for non-members, \$4 for members.



One of our members wanted a hard copy of The Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company 1849-1873. We now have 20 copies for sale at \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members.



The best part is the profit from the sales goes to new exhibits in the Museum!

Birch Ave Mural Dedication

On Sunday, Feb. 26th the community dedicated the new Birch Ave Mural on Birch Ave in Siler City.

The mural commemorates the Birch Ave black merchants with portraits of several of these merchants and the businesses they owned. Businesses included Birch Ave Cafe, Birch Ave Barber Shop, Birch Ave Beauty Shop, Birch Ave TV and Repair and the Poolroom. The jewelry store was a block away.



Black entrepreneurs in the mural include Tod Edwards, Robert Lee Womble, Louise Smith, Henrietta Paterson, Donald Strickland, and Major Farrar.

The Siler City Citizens in Action organization commissioned the mural which was painted by noted mural artist Darlene J. McClinton and her students at NC A&T University.

Meet one of our Volunteers: Sy Robbins

Who's Minding the Store?

As Chatham County becomes the epicenter of growth in North Carolina, many residents justifiably ask, "Who's minding the store?" Well, for one, the Chatham County Historical Association has and is. In particular, the Preservation Committee of the CCHA has been providing input to local governmental entities to document and preserve historical resources in Chatham.

In the Spring of 2021, the CCHA was added, as a voting member, to the Chatham County Technical Advisory Committee, which reviews subdivisions and other development projects in Chatham County, and which sends its findings to the County Planning Board; the CCHA also provides similar input for projects in Siler City through a more informal arrangement with the Town Planning Department. In the Spring of 2022, the CCHA was invited to serve on the Town of Pittsboro's Technical Review Committee, which has similar functions to the County committee.

In the last 2 years, the CCHA has formally provided input on almost 100 projects, focusing on protection of known gravesites, and structures of architectural significance. CCHA input has also included the identification of historic features that may need



preservation and/or documentation, such as barns and other outbuildings, walls, wells, and road traces; areas of possible past Native American habitation (e.g., near surface waters) have also been highlighted. The data sources to make these determinations include the County tax map database (for known cemeteries and surface water features), the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's website (for National Register buildings and other houses and structures with architectural significance), as well as aerial photos, filed deeds, and filed surveys (both current and historic).

While the CCHA has no power to prevent growth, it is in a position to at least document what is here that may be lost, and perhaps shape development in a small way so as to preserve the sense of place that makes Chatham County special.

On-Going Projects

- The Questers are helping the Collections Committee organize some of the Collection. Many thanks to these wonderful volunteers!
- We're reaching out to home-schoolers to invite them to a Field Trip.
- One of the Welcoming panels in the Museum contains 2010 census data. 2020 information is available so the panel should be updated. We need to raise money for the replacement panel and generate a design that lends itself to a greater understanding of the growth of Chatham.
- If you find a cemetery not on CemeteryCensus.com, let us know at CemeterySurvey@Chathamhistory.org. We are always looking for these locations so history won't be lost.
- We're exploring having a car show as a fundraiser, if you'd like to help or having experience and can advise us, please contact museum@chathamhistory.org.
- Manly Law Office needs new doors, an ADA compliant ramp. We have an architect designing the ramp.

We are an *ALL-Volunteer* organization.
No one is paid.

If you would like to join us in collecting, preserving, and sharing Chatham County history, email us!

Volunteers@chathamhistory.org

We also have parties and go on field trips!



Website: chathamhistory.org
Email: history@chathamhistory.org

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

919-542-6222

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