

# Chatham County Historical Association

PO Box 93 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919.542.6222 · [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org)



Volume 35, Issue 4

CCHA Newsletter

June 2023

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

2023 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-opening of the Historical Museum in the Historic Courthouse after the fire that destroyed most of the interior. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at The Mod the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup>. All Museum Volunteers that could be contacted were invited to the dinner. Patty Walters who organized the evening welcomed all the attendees, many from the earliest days of the Museum in the Historic Courthouse. Susan Little, chair of the Museum Committee that created the current Museum, spoke about that history, and thanked everyone for coming!



Above: Patty Walters addresses the Volunteers. Susan Little describes the history of the Museum Volunteers.

## Summer Fest – Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Summer Fest is the first Sunday in July, in downtown Pittsboro—held on Salisbury, Hanks, and the town parking lot in-between from 3pm-8:30pm. There will be live music, games, food, drinks, and Contests -- Watermelon Seed Spitting, Pie, Beard & Mustache, and amateur BBQ cookoff! **The Museum and historic Courthouse will be open from 1pm until after 3 pm.** Visit the Museum where the DAR will be handing out American flags and you'll have an opportunity to make a paper hat! Then spend the afternoon at Summer Fest!



## National Historic Register: Bynum

Bynum residents are working to get Bynum on the National Historic Register! A public meeting for homeowners within the district was held to answer questions about the Register and a Study List Application was submitted to the National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC). Approval was obtained at the NRAC's June 8th meeting. The next step is hiring a professional consultant to prepare the formal nomination document that will include the 60-70 structures in the district that supported one of the first textile mills in the state and continues today to have a community identity. The group will launch a GoFundMe campaign to pay for the consultant and will need your help! CCHA is pleased to support this effort! Stay tuned for updates and to find out how you can help!!



## Chicken Fest

CCHA had a booth at the May 6, 2023, Siler City Chicken Fest.

The day was bright and sunny, and the Fest was well attended. Over 70 people stopped by the booth to share



history or learn history. Many didn't know of the Museum or the Historical Association. This was a great outreach event so people from Chatham County know their history is important enough to be preserved and shared!

## Other Recent Outreach:

- The Deep River Chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** held their May monthly meeting at the Museum. Members of the DAR must prove they are a lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolutionary War and so are interested in genealogy and history. The members found out more about the history of Chatham County.
- Every year the Chatham Chamber of Commerce conducts **Leadership Chatham** classes. Chatham Leadership program includes information on Chatham's social, cultural, political, and economic makeup. CCHA talks to the participants about Chatham history and culture. This year there were about 30 participants who came to the historic courthouse to hear about Chatham history. These are the current and future leaders of Chatham County and CCHA gets to opportunity to help them understand the County!
- Karen Vaca and Cindy Schmidt, Museum volunteers, went to Raleigh on April 29<sup>th</sup> to judge high school documentary entries to the state level of the **National History Day**

**competition.** They viewed six 10-minute documentaries and interviewed the student creators. The documentaries had to relate to the 'Frontiers in History' theme. Documentary topics included Zebulon Pike, Flappers and the cultural frontier they explored, how the Arrow Dynamics company pushed the frontiers of roller coaster technology, submarine technology, innovations of Nazi propaganda, and the need to extend the frontiers of facial reconstruction during WWI. Judging was based on content and technical aspects.



CCHA is hoping to get Chatham County students to create entries to the competition which culminates with a national competition in College Park, MD and \$150,000 in scholarships awarded.

## Antiques Road Show

An episode of the PBS program Antiques Road Show was filmed in Raleigh last month. PBS gave 20 tickets free to CCHA. Volunteers and Board members claimed them. All said they had a good time, but no one had that unexpected treasure!!





## Museum Update

- **First Sunday, July 2 is Summer Fest.** The Museum will be open from 1-3pm. During that time, the Deep River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be handing out American Flags and you can make a folded paper hat.
- There are **three new short-term exhibits in the Museum:**
  - **Name that artifact** asks the visitor to determine the purpose of several artifacts before revealing their uses. This exhibit will be up until the end of the summer.
  - **Native people's stone tools, points, and pottery** will be on display until the end of summer.
  - Don't miss our new exhibit on **railroads in Chatham County**. Learn where the rails ran in the County and understand the impacts!
- Pat Stucke, a Museum and Fourth Grade Field Trip volunteer, met the owner of the **Alston-DeGraffenriedt** house and arranged for a few volunteers to have a tour of the house and property. The house was originally built about 1810 for John Jones Alston by his father, John 'Chatham Jack' Alston. Delia Alston DeGraffenriedt inherited the property in the estate division of her mother, Adeline Williams Alston. The current owners have been there for over 50 years. They purchased the property to preserve it and make sure current generations know what operating a large



farm is like. Tours like this happen infrequently and are offered first to Museum volunteers. Join us!



## Collections Update

- The pictures and documents in CCHA's collection are shared frequently on the Museum Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum>). Recently a producer of the PBS history series *American Experience* approached CCHA for permission to include a photo from a CCHA post in a PBS video. CCHA connected PBS with the contributor who gladly gave permission! This is a great example of how CCHA Collections and Chatham history are shared!
- **Preservation Hill Chapter of The Questers**, located in Chapel Hill, continues to assist our volunteers with inventorying our Collections. Quester volunteers work several hours a week to ensure items can be found and shared! Many thanks to these volunteers.

## Opportunities

### for you to make a difference:

- **Spirits Tour** Reserve Oct 14<sup>th</sup> or Oct 28 from 5:30-7:00 pm to come on the **Spirits Tour of Pittsboro**-- a walking tour of several historic sites in downtown where reenactors will share Pittsboro history from the points of view of several historic figures. Be sure and join us for the exciting fundraising tour! Keep watching the newsletter to find out when you'll be able to purchase tickets.

- **Planned Car Show**

A fund-raising **Annual CCHA Car Show** is in the planning stages. Spring '24 is the goal for the inaugural car show planned for Pittsboro. If you have experience with car shows and would like to help plan or conduct the show, please email [museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:museum@chathamhistory.org) and let us know. We'd love to have your knowledge and advice!

- **The Fourth Grade Field Trip (4GFT)** will begin in September for the 2023-2024 school year. The back page of the workbook, given to each student to take home, is filled with thank-yous to 4GFT

**4th Grade Field Trips**  
*are provided by the*  
 Chatham County Historical Association, a non-profit (501c-3)

*Many thanks to our volunteers and our community for their support of the 4th Grade field trips to the Chatham Historical Museum and Historic Chatham County Courthouse*

**Chad Virgil, Edward Jones Investments, Pittsboro**  
**Chatham Business Services**  
**Chatham County Schools**  
**Hobbs Architects, PA**  
**Patty Walters**

**Pittsboro Police Department**  
**South Chatham Lions Club**  
**Sue and Rich Luke**  
**Susan and Bob Little**  
**The Bar Association of**

**Judicial District 18 - Chatham & Orange Counties**  
**Town of Goldston**  
**4th Grade Field trip Volunteers**

Museum Hours: Wednesday - Friday 11 am to 4 pm  
 and First Sundays, March - Dec from Noon-4:30 pm  
 phone 919-542-6222  
[www.chathamhistory.org](http://www.chathamhistory.org) [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org)  
[facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum](https://facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum)

Contact: [FourthGrade@ChathamHistory.org](mailto:FourthGrade@ChathamHistory.org)

donors. If you'd like to support fourth graders in Chatham County learning about Chatham history at the Museum, send us a check for \$100 or more and we'll include your name or your business's name on the workbook, which goes home and to be seen by all the parents.

- Find a Cemetery or gravestones while wandering on your property or in the woods? Tell us so we can get them documented! Contact us at [CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org](mailto:CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org).

- **Follow us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum> Daily Facebook posts highlight various aspects of Chatham County history. The page has more than 5,800 followers who contribute photos and information that adds to the knowledge base and connects community. Join us! The most popular posts last month were Goldston Studio photos, Dell Headen Boy Scout, Bray-Paschal House, Devils Tramping Ground, Hailbron, Isaiah Cole House, Brickhaven Depot, Naomi Wise, Feedwell Café, Sheep Rock, Oval Oak Manufacturing Co. workers, and the Marshall and Milliken cabins.

### Preservation Update:

- Preservation committee chair Sy Robbins has reviewed several parcels of land in development or pre-development for historically significant artifacts and reported his findings to either the town or county.
- **Manly Law office** preliminary drawings by Dan Sundberg, Landscape Architect, and Grim Hobbs, Architect define a ramp to the back door of the Manly Law Office that will allow all visitors access to the building. The next step is final drawings and cost estimate.



- If you have time to share Chatham County history with visitors, **please consider volunteering to be a guide in the Museum.** Museum volunteers get a guidebook about the history in the Museum and a booklet about the Collection, Gift Shop, and other processes. As you can tell from this newsletter, volunteers get together for dinners, tours, as well as history!!

## MEMBERSHIP

The Chatham County Historical Association is an all-volunteer organization--which means we don't have expenses for staff, but we do have expenses. The phone and internet, the newsletter email application and the copies that are mailed by USPS, and the website are all expenses. CCHA depends on your membership and financial donations to continue to be able to do the mission of *"preserve and communicate the history of Chatham County, North Carolina."*



Membership levels are:

Individual membership: \$18

Family membership: \$20

Student: \$10

Patron: \$50

Friend: \$100

Corporate membership: \$100

Lifetime Individual: \$1000

Lifetime Corporate: \$5000

Join on the website:

<https://chathamhistory.org/CCHA-Online-Membership-Application>

or USPS to: CCHA

PO Box 93, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Please consider supporting CCHA with your membership or donation.

Chatham County Historical Association



Chatham Historical Museum 919-542-6222

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

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

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

Museum Open: Wed, Thurs, Fri 11-4 pm year round

Tours by request ~ email [muuem@chathamhistory.org](mailto:muuem@chathamhistory.org)