

# Chatham County Historical Association

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



Volume 35, Issue 5

CCHA Newsletter

Aug 2023

## **The Next Program** **September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2 pm** **At the Historic Courthouse** **Mining in Chatham County**

Come to the historic courthouse the First



Sunday in  
September  
3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm  
to hear  
Forest  
Hazel talk  
about

mining in Chatham County. We've had so many people view the mining exhibit in the Museum we asked Forest to give a program at the next First Sunday. So come to the Historic Courthouse courtroom to learn about mining in Chatham County.

## **Spirits of Pittsboro Past** **Walking Tour**

What spirits lurk in downtown Pittsboro?

Experience an out of the ordinary historical walking tour! In the spirit of Halloween, participants will be in search of ghostly spirits from the town's past. Walk in the



footsteps of those who came before us to see the town and its buildings and sites in a whole new way. Experience the wonder of our shared history through the exploration of "Spirits of Pittsboro Past." Participants will be led through a one-mile tour of downtown Pittsboro visiting historical sites and learning local folklore while encountering "spirits" along the way. We will tour sites such as the Masonic Lodge, St Barts Church and cemetery, and much more. At the conclusion of



the tour, participants will be invited to a reception and home tour of the oldest surviving building in Chatham County, the "Yellow House" built for Patrick St Lawrence around 1790. Hosts are current owners Ray and Janet Carney.

Tickets are \$20 apiece, and the tour is appropriate for ages 12 and above. Tours are Saturdays October 14 and October 28 from 5:30-8:00. Tickets are limited to 40 per night, two tours running simultaneously each evening, and will be available for sale online September 1 on the CCHA website, or in person at the Chatham Historical Museum Wednesday-Friday from 11:00-4:00.

*"The past is never dead. It's not even past."*  
William Faulkner

## National Historic Register: Bynum Update

In the last newsletter Susan Crate, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology told us how she's working with a group to get Bynum on the National Historic Register. She has an update:

A group from Bynum is working to get Bynum on the National Historic



1915 Bynum Cotton Mill

Register. The group began the Bynum Historic Designation project by

researching the process and hosting a community meeting in March 2023. At the meeting Sarah Woodard, the Survey and National Register Branch Supervisor of the State Historic Preservation Office, met with residents within the proposed historic boundary which encompasses about 60-70 structures. The meeting allowed residents to ask questions and understand what National Historic Registration is and would mean for the community.

The process to get on the National Historic Register involves multiple steps. The first step was successfully completed on June 8th when the National Register Advisory Committee approved adding Bynum to a "Study List" for historic designation. The next step will be fundraising efforts to secure a professional consultant to prepare formal National

Register nomination documents and to purchase historical markers. As



Bynum Bridge Birthday by Kim Hawks

a part of the fundraising effort, the group is applying for grants and also will launch a GoFundMe campaign after Labor Day. The GoFundMe page will invite all supporters in Chatham County and beyond who acknowledge that Bynum was one of the first textile mills in the state, that it has a rich cultural and socio-economic history, and that it remains, to this day, a vibrant community. Considering Bynum's long history and continued vibrancy to this day, our community is a testament to the fact that history is not just about our past, but it is also a cultural lifeline for today and into the future. If you have questions about getting Bynum on the National Historic Register, please reach out to Susie Crate: [scrate1@gmu.edu](mailto:scrate1@gmu.edu)

## Cemetery Update



This has been a very productive summer for our cemetery volunteers who have added, photographed, or updated several dozen cemeteries. We owe special thanks to **Boe Goodwin** for documenting several remote sites in the southeastern part of the county, to **Angie Pearse** for adding hundreds of photos for several previously undocumented sites in northeastern Chatham, to **Julie King McDaniel** for updating some of the west Chatham sites she has documented over the last decade or so and for joining the cemetery team to help get our records preserved at the state level. **Cemetery project coordinator Kelly Gomez** continues to monitor and document cemeteries impacted by the

recent wave of development in the county.

Our goal is to document all Chatham County cemeteries with photographs and there are hundreds of sites that still need attention. If there's a cemetery on your property or if your church cemetery has not been photographed, please step up and help. If you know of an undocumented cemetery in the county, please help us get access. Go to CCHA's records on CemeteryCensus.com to see what has been documented and what we are missing:

<https://cemeterycensus.com/nc/chat/index.htm> . Contact us to find out what is needed and how we might be able to help:

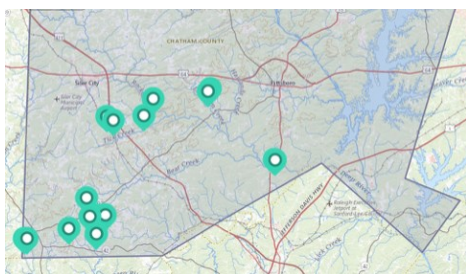
[CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org](mailto:CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org).

## Upcoming Outreach:

- CCHA will have a booth at Bennett Flatwoods Festival, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm.
- Find the CCHA booth at Goldson Old Fashioned Day, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-4!
- CCHA will be wandering in the crowd at Siler City Fiesta September 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6 pm. Join Us!

## Museum Update

- **First Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Forest Hazel program on Mining in Chatham County.** 2 pm at the Historic Courthouse courtroom.



- **Change in a Permanent Exhibit:** One of the permanent exhibits had 2010 census information which was current when the Museum

opened in 2013. This board was updated to 2020 census information.



The original Museum designers, Design Dimension, agreed to do the update for minimal cost at the request of Hobbs Architects, the architects in charge of the rebuilding of the historic courthouse after the fire in 2010. Many



thanks for working so quickly and easily to get the board changed!!

- **The Preservation Hill Chapter of The Questers**, located in Chapel Hill, has recently agreed to help fundraise for the preservation/updating needed to add the ramp to the Manly Law Office. The Questers also continue to assist our volunteers with inventorying the Collections. Many thanks to these volunteers.

## Opportunities for you to make a difference:

- **Become a Museum Volunteer:** join us in staffing the Museum to give tours to visitors. We have great training, and you meet the biggest variety of people in Chatham.
- **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, which is given to each student to take home, is filled with thank-yous to

**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 history@chathamhistory.org  
facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum

Contact: FourthGrade@ChathamHistory.org

4GFT 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 seen by all the parents.

- **Follow us on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum> Daily Facebook posts highlight various aspects of Chatham County history. The page has more than 6.3K

followers who contribute photos and information that adds to the knowledge base and connects community. Join us!

## Preservation Update:

- **Manly Law office** preliminary drawings have been done by Dan Sundberg, Landscape Architect, and Grim Hobbs, Architect. The drawings define a ramp to the back door of the building that will allow all visitors access to the building. The next step is final drawings and cost estimate.



**Visit** our website: [ChathamHistory.org](http://ChathamHistory.org) ! for more information about Chatham County history or to contact CCHA go to:  
<https://chathamhistory.org/Contact-Us>

If you have comments about this newsletter, please email [Museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Museum@chathamhistory.org). If you'd like to make this newsletter better by putting it together, please email [Musuem@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Musuem@chathamhistory.org) for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP IN CCHA:

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 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 and 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 [musuem@chathamhistory.org](mailto:musuem@chathamhistory.org)