

Chatham County Historical Association

PO Box 93 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919.542.6222 · chathamhistory.org



Volume 35, Issue 6

CCHA Newsletter

Oct 2023



The Next Program Sunday, November 5th at 2 pm at the Historic Courthouse

The November First Sunday Program will be Victor Burns, descendant of Nathan Stedman, [In Search of my Grandfathers, The Discovery of the Stedman Family Cemetery in Pittsboro NC](#) The cemetery was located just yards from the Historic Courthouse, forgotten for decades. Join us to learn how it was rediscovered. Victor worked for Central Electric Membership Corporation as Director of Technical Services. In addition to being a member of the Chatham County Historical Society, he is a member of the Moore County Genealogical Society. He serves as Chapter Genealogist for the Sandhills Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Join us to hear about moving some of his ancestors in downtown Pittsboro. The program is free as always.

The Last Program: Mining in Chatham County

by Forest Hazel
Was attended by
48 people who kept Forest after the program



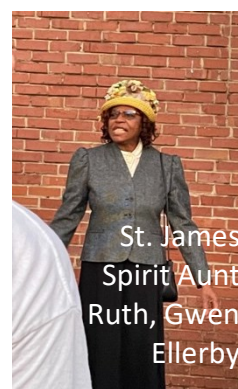
answering questions about various kinds of mines in Chatham County. Forest stayed for the rest of First Sunday in the Museum speaking with all the visitors about Chatham Mines. It's wonderful volunteers like Forest that make CCHA a great organization. Thanks so much Forest!

Spirits of Pittsboro Past Walking Tour

On the first tour on October 14th, 40 participants were led on a one-mile tour of downtown Pittsboro visiting historical sites and learning local

folklore while encountering "spirits" along

the way. After the tour participants joined the spirits at a reception and home tour of the oldest surviving building in Chatham County, the "Yellow House" hosted by the current owners Ray and Janet Carney.



Tickets for both days sold out in 6 days. The enthusiastic feedback from the first tour convinced us the second annual Spirits Tour, planned for October next year, should have more nights!!

National Historic Register: Bynum Update



The Bynum Historic Designation (BHD) team sincerely thanks those of you who have donated to their effort to get Bynum on the National Historic Register! Your support means everything to them! The BHD team continues to work hard to get the word out requesting support, of any amount, to help them reach their goal to hire a professional consultant tasked with developing the nomination of Bynum to the National Historic Register. Bynum has a rich socio-economic and cultural history, and the community continues to be important as a gathering place, center of arts and creativity, and retreat of solace on the river and historical bridge. You can learn all about BHD's effort by reading the information posted on their GoFundMe page here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/national-historic-register-designation-bynum> If you want to donate, but not online, you can now mail in a check: Make the check payable to: Bynum Front Porch. BHD is working with Bynum Front Porch as their 501-C3/ non-profit sponsor. Add on memo line: For Bynum Historic Designation

Send check to: Bynum Historic Designation
PO Box 124
Bynum, NC 27228

CCHA is very glad to support the Bynum Historic Designation (BHD) effort by spreading the word through the newsletter, Facebook, and website. It's a wonderful preservation project!

PS-One of the BHD team recently spoke on a local radio program – take a listen: <https://whupfm.org/episode/3-d-news-10-12-23-permanent-archive/>

If you have questions about the Bynum, project, please reach out to Susie Crate: scrate1@gmu.edu

Fourth Grade Field Trip



Our Fourth Grade Field Trips began September 28th. Fourth Grade students are learning about Chatham history from 10 volunteers. They discover the uses of artifacts, read their scripts in the civil trial of Goldilocks v Three Bears, imagine what life was like if you used first peoples' points on spears and arrows, and discover what a Museum curator does. We are still looking for \$100 donations to cover the cost of the workbooks and keep the Field Trips free for all students. If you can help, send a check to CCHA, PO Box 93, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Board Update:

- Listen to our programs on the CCHA YouTube channel: [Chatham NC History - YouTube](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/@chathamnchistory6202>
- We're collecting names for oral histories – so if you are someone or know someone that would be a good candidate email: Museum@chathamhistory.org

- We're looking for a woodworker to make two doors for the Manly Law Office. If you are someone or know someone that might be willing and able to do the job, email History@chathamhistory.org. Bids are needed to fundraise.

CCHA Board members have varied interests and activities that help achieve the mission of CCHA which is to preserve and communicate the history of Chatham County.

One of the Board members is on the Pittsboro Planning Board, is restoring the oldest building in the County, which is a Spirit Tour stop, and helps with Preservation Projects like the smokehouse and Manly Law Office.

One is restoring his family's mill, helps with Preservation Projects like the smokehouse and the Manly Law Office and has made his firm's office a stop on the Spirit Tour.

One is a landscape architect and contributes to historic streetscaping in Siler City.

One contributes by being the lead on the Collections Committee and desperately wishes for help!

One farms with his 90+ year-old dad and talks with people at Outreach events.

What is your history superpower?

Will you use it to preserve and share the history of the place you live for those that come after you?

Email Museum@chathamhistory.org

Outreach:



Flatwoods Festival, Bennett. We had a great deal of fun at the CCHA booth at Bennett Flatwoods Festival, September 9th. Volunteers talked to about 30 people about Chatham History. The parade is so worth the trip! See you there next year!

CCHA was one of the Quest locations for the Sept 30 Pittsboro Treasure Quest!

Costumed teams performed quests for points then were rewarded with booty! The Museum quest required teams to solve a word search with a hidden message that told them to find a specific item in the Museum and get their picture taken. The pirate team below completed their quest to find the Earl of Chatham!



Over 100 people came to the Museum as a result of the Quest that probably wouldn't have come any other way. About half took a brochure with the hours so they could return and learn more about the County they live in.

Museum Update

- **First Sunday November 5th – Victor Burns program on finding his Stedman ancestors.** 2 pm at the Historic Courthouse courtroom. The programs are always free. There will be music from the balcony at other times, compliments of Nelson Smith, when he's not being our own Lewis Freeman Spirit.
- **First Sunday Dec 3rd** – Antique toys in the Museum and music from the balcony. Come to the Museum and get the perfect Christmas gift for the history buff in your life.
- **Geology Exhibit** remains too popular to stop. This exhibit will stay for a while longer! If you haven't seen it yet, get in soon as it will disappear without notice.
- **The Museum schools exhibit** needs to be updated. The number and names of schools in the Schools Exhibit is not the same as it was in 2010 when the exhibit was created. We are looking into updating that information and will be asking for your monetary contributions to make that happen.



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. Volunteers have pot-luck dinners and do field trips together to locations we arrange.
- **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 and let us know. We'd love to have your knowledge and advice!
- **Write the Newsletter:** the newsletter is the way we tell you about what's happened and what's coming up. The goal is to put it out six times a year. The information comes from the Board meeting minutes, the Museum Committee minutes, the Facebook page and the website. The pictures come from people who have participated in the events. CCHA puts out an emailed

version and a USPS paper version for those that don't do email. It's a volunteer effort. Join us!

- **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

The effort to stabilize the floor and foundation has been completed. Now, the doors need to be replaced to make the building watertight. The current doors were probably cut down from doors rescued from buildings being moved to make way for Jordan Lake. The doors have never fit well and weren't period. CCHA is now going to find out how much building period doors will cost and then fundraise for it. The Questers have already said they will contribute! The Questers have been faithful participants in preserving the Manly Law office, providing funding over the years for many repairs.

For their continued support, the people of Chatham County owe The Chapel Hill Preservation Hill #1497 chapter of the Questers a big THANKS! If you're interested in the Questors, information can be found here: <https://www.questers1944.org>

What's New on Our Website

We add new articles and resources to our website every month. Here are two you won't want to miss. You can link to new posts from the What's New section on our home page: <https://chathamhistory.org> and you can see a complete list of articles here: <https://chathamhistory.org/Research-Articles-Index>.

[Orange County Deed Book Zero](#)

Though there were thousands of real estate transactions in the early years of Orange County, only a small fraction remains well documented. Mark Chilton has endeavored to fill some of the gap left by the absent records by abstracting names and deed information from the Register of Orange--the notebook in which the probate of deeds in Colonial Orange County were recorded. The Register included the names of the grantor, the grantee, the acreage conveyed and the name of the probate witness, but not the legal description.

[Quail Hunting in Chatham](#)

In this paper, Margaret Bingham recalls childhood memories of quail hunting by members of her family and introduces an article written by her late brother, Fred Hamlet for Pittsboro's bicentennial in 1976. Even though he was not a quail hunter, Fred's interest in county history and his exposure to quail hunting growing up must have led him to visit Mrs. Rosser (Alex) Cockman to talk with her about the Hickory Mountain Hunting (Gun) Club. The description of the Hickory Mountain Hunting Club activities that Mrs. Cockman shared with Fred brings to life a different Chatham County than the one we know now.

If you have comments about this newsletter, please email Museum@chathamhistory.org. If you'd like to make this newsletter better by putting it together, please email Museum@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 IT program and copies that are mailed by USPS, and the website and its maintenance 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 2731

Chatham County Historical Association



Chatham Historical Museum

919-542-6222

www.chathamhistory.org

history@chathamhistory.org

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

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

Tours by request -> email museum@chathamhistory.org