

Chatham County Historical Association

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



Volume 35, Issue 7

CCHA Newsletter

Dec 2023

The Next Program

will be immediately after the **Annual Meeting** at 2 pm on January 21, 2024. Stay tuned for the speaker.

New Exhibit in the Museum

The Museum General Store now displays Christmas toys. Thanks to volunteers, Patty Walters and Wanda Pender, for remaking the General Store exhibit in the Museum into a Christmas exhibit!



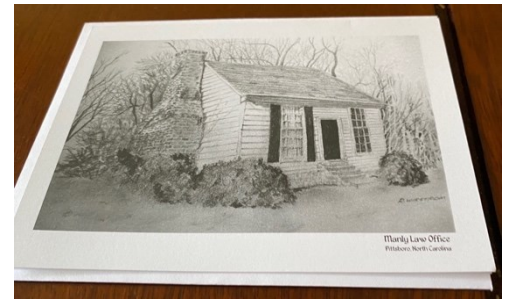
The Museum Shop has Christmas Presents! Shop in-person or on-line for just the right present for

the history buff in your life. If you're new to Chatham we have maps and books to get you acquainted. Our Christmas ornaments make for a very Chatham Christmas!



A Special Gift:

CCHA partners with the Questers to preserve the Manly Law



Office. The Preservation Hill Chapter of the national Questers are fundraising for new doors for the Law Office to make it watertight again. The Questers have notecards in the Museum office for sale. The notecards would be a wonderful gift that gives back to Chatham County by helping preserve the Law Office. Visit the Museum to make a purchase.

JOIN US FOR THE PITTSBORO

CHRISTMAS PARADE Sunday, Dec. 10th at 3 pm. The Parade will start at East Street and



MLK and end at West Street and Hwy 87. CCHA will have a float with Spirit reenactors who'll be giving out Candy Canes!

The Nov. Program:



The November First Sunday Program was Victor Burns, descendent of Nathan Stedman, [In Search of my Grandfathers, The Discovery of the Stedman Family Cemetery in Pittsboro NC](#)

About 50 people came to hear Victor talk about how his search for his ancestors led him to work with Greg Stafford, a downtown businessman, to excavate a lost cemetery and reinter his ancestors in a new grave compliments of the Pittsboro United Methodist Church. Listen to this latest program on the CCHA YouTube channel:

[Chatham NC History - YouTube](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/@chathamnhistory6202>

WOW!! Spirits of Pittsboro Past

Walking Tour Twenty volunteers spent two and a half hours on two evenings taking 40 participants on a walking tour of 10 locations to hear sometimes weird and spooky history. The tour was sold out in 6 days with about 100 on the wait list. Next year we hope to have the tour on four Saturday evenings. If you would like to be a 'Spirit' next year, email museum@chathamhistory.org and join the fun! We had a great party after!



National Historic Register: Bynum Update



Bynum Historic Preservation (BHP) is working to get Bynum on the National Historic Register. A GoFundMe page was started to gauge community preservation interest. Because of the interest shown by donations, the group received a generous \$15,000 grant from the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation. BHP is now 2/3 of the way to their initial financial goal which will allow them to hire a preservation expert to start writing the Bynum historic description. 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 BHP'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. BHP 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. If you have questions about the Bynum project, please reach out to SusieCrate: scrate1@gmu.edu

December First Sunday



The last First Sunday of 2024 was well attended despite the threatening sky. Visitors came into the Museum as well as enjoyed the music from the balcony provided by one of our volunteers, Nelson Smith.

First Sunday will resume the First Sunday in April. See you then!

Outreach:

We're partnering with the Wren Library for monthly meetings called Siler City History Social at 10:30 am on the First Fridays of the month starting in January 2024. The History Socials will have general topics. First, we'll be asking participants for their recollections and memories of Chatham Ave and Birch Ave. The Library is providing cookies, coffee, tea, and water. A CCHA volunteer will lead the meetings and hopefully glean Siler City historical information to preserve and share. Please join the group and share your history of Siler City.

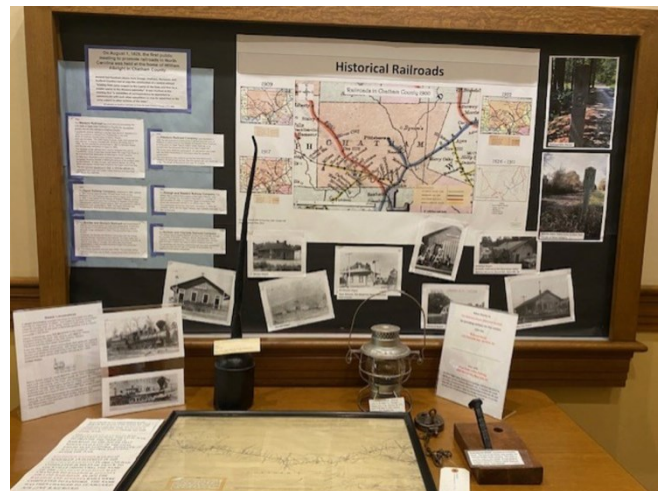
Museum Update

- **Railroad Exhibit:** Did you know that on August 1, 1828, the first public meeting to promote railroads in North Carolina was held at the home of William Albright in Chatham County? The need for railroads in Chatham was becoming more urgent because of the coal mines in the Deep

River Valley area of Chatham.

Currently there is an informative Museum exhibit on Chatham railroads. Visit while it is still available.

Included in the exhibit are several artifacts shared by The Railroad House Historical Association (Museum) in Sanford. We want to thank them for sharing with us and have enjoyed the collaboration. The Railroad House museum is located at 110



Charlotte Ave., Sanford. Open hours are limited, but they welcome visitors.

- **The Museum was open** the Friday after Thanksgiving, Small Business Saturday, and December First Sunday and had LOTS of visitors! The Museum can only be open if you volunteer to staff it. Some of our volunteers know a great deal about Chatham History and some don't. The Museum has Chatham history from first peoples to recent events. Decide to become involved in 2024. Email us at Museum@chathamhistory.org.
- **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.

Opportunities for you to make a difference:

- **JOIN CCHA AS A MEMBER!** Your \$20 family membership, along with all the other members, goes a long way to funding Association activities. There is a membership form at the end of this newsletter. Send it in with your membership and give the gift of Chatham History!
- **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!
- **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!

What's New on Our Website

There are snippets on the Farmers Alliance Store in Siler City circa 1890, the Cartersville Gilmore Lodge, 1946 Pittsboro. If you have suggestions or would like to contribute, please contact us at history@chathamhistory.org.

CCHA had several volunteer parties to cover in this newsletter!



- After each of the Spirit Tours the volunteers got together at the last stop, the Patrick St. Lawrence House for wine, cheese, and good fellowship.
- All the Spirit Tour Volunteers came to a Potluck at Pat's house. A wonderful time was had by all!
- The Holiday Potluck was at Cindy's house with wine and homemade peach mead.



If you're new to Chatham County and are looking for a way to give back and be with a great group of like-minded folks, join us at the Museum. Email Cindy at museum@chathamhistory.org.

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."*

[Join on the website](#), or

Or cut out the form below and send to the address at the bottom.



Membership Information (please print clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone or cell phone: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

Email will be used for newsletter and announcement delivery

Interested in volunteering? Please indicate areas of interest and a representative will contact you:

☐ Museum ☐ Collection/Research ☐ Cemetery ☐ Preservation ☐ Genealogy ☐ Other

Membership level—Please check one:

☐ Individual (\$18) ☐ Family (\$20) ☐ Student (\$10) ☐ Patron (\$50) ☐ Friend (\$100)

☐ Corporate (\$100) ☐ Lifetime-individual (\$1,000) ☐ Lifetime-corporate (\$5,000)

Please make checks or money orders payable to

Chatham County Historical Association or CCHA

Complete this membership form and send it with your dues to:

Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

PO Box 93

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Chatham County Historical Association



Chatham Historical Museum 919-542-6222

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

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

Tours by request -> email museum@chathamhistory.org

www.chathamhistory.org

history@chathamhistory.org